

## Lord Killanin rules out change of site for Olympics

here is no question of the Olympic Games being moved from Moscow next summer, Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, said in Dublin. In Washington, resident Carter said America would boycott the games if Soviet troops did not withdraw from Afghanistan within a month.

## Moscow not in breach of games agreement

John Hennessey  
Lord Killanin, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) took a firm and over the weekend in the face of the Moscow Olympics asserting that "there is no question of their being moved to another venue". In an interview in Dublin he told me: "This is a time for heads and quiet voices". I added, however, that it was the time for dispelling any ambiguity about the Moscow Games. The games had been awarded to Moscow in 1974, he explained, and there was a binding agreement which would prevent the IOC from withdrawing the Olympics from Moscow unless a Russian was in breach of the agreement. They were not. "This does not mean that I or the IOC are condoning the political action taken by the Soviet Union, but if we started making political judgments it would be the end of the games as any sport that behaved like this would be dead", he said. But were the Russians breaking the games for political purposes? Lord Killanin said he had been unable to detect any difference between the activities of the Moscow Olympic Committee and those of the cities that had preceded it down the years, all of which had always been anxious to present themselves at their best. As far as the Olympic agreement was concerned, Moscow had observed both its word and spirit, he said. No political propaganda, or commercial propaganda for that matter, is allowed in the Olympic Games, but of course "we do not control what happens inside". I suggested that political leaders of all shades both in Britain and the United States might be indulging in political stunts as a means of getting their message across to the media. "I don't know what is in the minds of President Carter or of Thatcher", he replied, "but it would appear that they have not consulted the Olympic authorities in their respective countries, otherwise they would realize the impossibility of what they were asking". Some of the rasher statements by some politicians on action platforms could do immense damage, he suggested.

## US athletes would observe boycott, Mr Carter says

David Cross  
Washington, Jan 20  
President Carter announced today that he is giving the United States Olympic Committee a month to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan or face a United States boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow. In an interview with reporters NBC television's Meet the Press, the President said: "Neither I nor the American people would support sending troops with Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Unless the Soviets withdraw their troops within a month the games should be moved from Moscow to another site or multiple sites or postponed or cancelled". Mr Carter said he had sent a message to this effect to the United States Olympic Committee today. Although the Administration has no legal powers to impose a boycott, it believes that the Olympic Committee and American athletes will heed its appeal. Mr Carter added: "I would personally favour the establishment of a permanent Olympic site for both the summer and winter games". The most appropriate site for the summer Olympics would be Greece where the first games were held, he believed.

## Naval concern at safety of roll on, roll off ships

Writime experts are worried about the safety of roll on, roll off freight ships, their open garage decks unbroken by rail divisions. The fear is that if a sea enters the deck there are no watertight divisions to contain the water and to prevent the ship from capsizing, as has happened on several occasions. There are 2,000 such vessels in service, many working round the British coasts. Page 2

## Upheaval in shop protest

report by the European Commission of Human Rights is believed to uphold the claim by three British Rail employees at their dismissal for refusing to join a union breached the European Convention on Human Rights. The three men are now in court. Ministers are expected not to join a union. Ministers are expected not to join a union. Ministers are expected not to join a union. Page 2

## 'Times' correspondent, riding shotgun with Soviet Army, earns looks of hatred from Afghans

### Russian troops die as tribesmen ambush convoy in Hindu Kush

From Robert Fisk  
Carikar, Afghanistan, Jan 20  
Major Yuri of the Soviet army, commanding Russian transport convoy number 58 from Tashkent to Kabul, stood on the icy road just north of Carikar and stared intently at a snow-covered orchard. "They are shooting from there", he said, and he gave me the kind of penetrating glance that soldiers adopt when they mean business. I had just expressed the opinion that I had never in my life seen a more peaceful landscape when there were three sharp reports from the direction of the orchard: the sound of bullets cracking through the air sent the Russian troops round me leaping into the cars of their lorries for their rifles. Some of us tumbled into a snowbank beside the road as a curl of blue smoke rose out of the orchard. Major Yuri, a 30-year-old regular with 13 years of soldiering behind him, a home in Kazakhstan and a wife and daughter whom he was anxious to see within three days, unslinging his Kalashnikov rifle. We knew that another Soviet convoy had been ambushed down the road in front of us and our own 145 trucks were now strung out along the mountain highway with an innocent vulnerability that began to communicate itself to the Soviet troops.

The major motioned to me. "Watch this, Robert", he said, and pointed from his battle-dress a long tube containing a Very light. We stood together in the snowfield, the slushy snow above our knees, as he nudged at a cord that hung beneath the tube. There was a small explosion, a powerful smell of cordite and a smoke trail that soared high up into the sky. It was watched by the dozen or so Russian soldiers beside us, each of whom knew that our convoy lay painfully exposed to sniper fire. The smoke trail had passed at 1,000ft in height when it burst into a shower of stars and within 50 seconds a Soviet Air Force MIG jet fighter swept over us at low level, dipping its wings. A minute later, a tracked armoured personnel carrier, with two of its crew leaning from their hatches, thrashed down the road and slithered to a halt beside our leading lorry. The radio-telephone began to crackle and Major Yuri lifted the receiver. He listened, then held up four fingers towards me. "They have killed four Russians in the convoy ahead", he said. He showed no emotion, although he lowered his eyes for a moment. We moved gingerly off towards Kabul 15 minutes later. There was little evidence of the ambushes in front of us.

for the feed of a dead man being hurriedly pushed into a Soviet Army van near Carikar and a great swathe of crimson and pink slush that spread for several yards down one side of the road. The highway grew more icy at sundown but we drove on at an ever increasing speed. For more than 100 miles, I had travelled with the Red Army down through the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountains, an extraordinary five-hour journey in the front cab of army trucks, sitting next to Soviet troops who spoke freely to me, shared their rations with me and—for one amazing half hour—armed me with an automatic rifle so that I could defend myself if the convoy was attacked. At times villagers and peasants lined the roadside to watch us pass. It was eerie to sit with a rifle on my lap next to Russian troops and to watch these Afghan people—most of them in turbans, long shawls and rubber shoes—staring at us with contempt. One man in a blue coat stood on the tailboard of an old lorry and watched me with narrow eyes. He shouted something that was lost in the roar of our convoy. It was the nearest I have ever seen to a look of total hatred. Major Yuri seemed unperturbed. "I do not think they

Continued on page 5, col 3

## Downing St talks on steel strike today

By Our Labour Editor  
The Prime Minister is to meet leaders of the two main striking steel unions this morning, but neither side expects much progress towards a settlement of the dispute to come out of the Downing Street talks. Mrs Margaret Thatcher will re-emphasize the view of the British Steel Corporation that higher pay must be paid for higher productivity in the industry rather than increased public funding. After meeting the unions, she will have discussions with Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of BSC, and Mr Robert Scholey, his chief executive. The atmosphere surrounding Mrs Thatcher's first face-to-face confrontation with leaders of the state steel strike, which is nearing the end of its third week, was scarcely improved by a remark made by Mr W. S. Sirs, general secretary of the dominant Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. He told a strike rally in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, that the Prime Minister was "a little naive in industrial matters, to say the least". A Downing Street spokesman reacted with some asperity, saying that she was "incredibly well briefed and personally well researched" on the steel industry. Mrs Thatcher regards the meeting as an opportunity to hear the unions' case at first hand, an opportunity sought, in fact, by the ISITC, and for her to speak to our readers. Continued on page 2, col 7



Mr Ray Walker with his mural in Spitalfields, London. Arts Council aid, page 4.

## Survey finds most trade unionists favour curbs on union powers

By Our Labour Editor  
Trade union leaders organizing opposition to the Government's labour law reforms may find their campaign undercut by their own members. This is the clear message emerging from a special poll of attitudes on the union carried out for The Times by Opinion Research and Communications (full report, page 12). The poll results, published today on the eve of a special TUC conference to coordinate hostility to Mr James Prior's Employment Bill, shows that 61 per cent of trade union members actually favour the legislation to reduce the power of their unions. Strong support also emerges for the Government's specific proposals on the closed shop, secret ballots and secondary picketing, and there is also a clear majority among trade unionists for Mrs Thatcher's declared intention to tighten the law further in the wake of the Law Lords' decision in the case of Express Newspapers v. McShane which legitimised sympathetic "blacklisting" in industrial disputes. The only consolation for TUC leaders is the disclosure that 50 per cent of active trade unionists believe that it is right for the unions to fight the forthcoming legislation rather than accept any reduction in their powers. The fight against the Heath Government's 1971 Industrial Relations Act started with the activists, and eventually involved the whole labour movement. ORC first asked a representative national quota of 1,039 electors whether they thought the unions had too much power and should be abolished. Not surprisingly, 83 per cent of non-trade union workers felt this was true, but 68 per cent of trade union members agreed with the proposition. Among active trade union members, the figure was 56 per cent. Turning to the new law which ORC said would "reduce trade union power in certain ways", 78 per cent of non-trade union workers favoured it, and 61 per cent of trade union members took the same view. When inactive members were excluded, the proportion in favour tumbled to 45 per cent in favour with 44 per cent against. And when asked: "Do you think that the unions should accept this new law cutting their powers, or do you think they should fight it?", 50 per cent of active trade union members said they should fight, and 39 per cent said they should not. The figure against confrontation rose to 56 per cent among trade union members as a whole, and to 76 per cent among non-trade union workers. When it comes down to the actual content of the Employment Bill, active trade unionists appear to contradict their willingness to fight its provisions. For instance 59 per cent of trade union members favour the Government's plans to curb the closed shop—a view also taken by 55 per cent of activists. On the principle of the closed shop, 29 per cent of trade union members say it is a bad thing and should be abolished (21 per cent in the case of activists) while 53 per cent say it should only be allowed where the great majority of members vote for having it (60 per cent among activists). The latter position more closely resembles that of the Government. Opinion is much more strongly expressed on the issue of picketing. Although ORC made its opinion survey before the striking steel makers had begun their campaign of flying pickets, the poll found that three-quarters of all adults agreed with the Government's intention to change the law relating to picketing, and 67 per cent of trade unionists agree. A remarkable 66 per cent of activists take the same view. Told that the new law will make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work, 86 per cent of all adults agreed with the idea; 79 per cent of trade unionists also support it, and the figure for activists is 70 per cent. The survey found very strong public support for secret ballots before strikes and for the election of trade union leaders and officials.

## Details of Israel plan for autonomy cast gloom on peace hopes

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Jan 20  
International pessimism over the Middle East peace process increased today with the publication of details of the very limited form of autonomy which Israel proposes to offer the 1.1 million Palestinian Arabs living in the occupied territories. The Israeli Cabinet subsequently reaffirmed that it intends to stick by the autonomy model in future negotiations, despite its rejection by the Egyptian Government in Cairo last week. At today's Cabinet meeting, it is understood that Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, accused Egypt of deliberately attempting to distort the Camp David Agreement by proposing legislative and judicial powers for any Palestinian autonomy authority. Ministers indicated that they saw no room for compromise on this key point. A senior Israeli official later explained that one of the main reasons why Israel was not prepared to consider any form of legislative power was fear about how it might be used. He explained that Palestinians on the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip might quickly introduce an equivalent of the Israeli "Law of Return" which would permit an inflow of large numbers of Palestinian Arabs to the region. The publication of the Israeli plans has highlighted the enormous diplomatic task now facing America if it is to bridge the gap with the Egyptian demands on autonomy. Israeli ministers have already indicated their determination to resist growing American pressure for a compromise on the Palestinian issue. The Israeli autonomy model is contained in a 25-page document which the authorities decided to publish to prevent further speculation about its contents. It is notable chiefly for the long list of important functions, responsibilities, and activities which Israel makes clear that it intends to keep in its own hands. Some of the remaining administrative functions would be exercised by an elected 11-man council, and others would be "shared" with the Israeli authorities. Under the plan, the so-called "residual" powers and responsibilities which would be still exercised by the Israelis include foreign affairs and defence; internal security; Israeli inhabitants and settlements; state lands; natural resources and energy; printing of stamps and currency; radio, television and information; aerospace supervision; supervision of territorial sea; main international communication exchanges; internal travel, international mail; supervision of Israeli banking and insurance institutions in the territories; and representation of the local banking system abroad. The Israeli document makes clear that the list is not necessarily complete, with the powers laid down being given merely as "examples" of the Israeli approach. In contrast, with Egyptian suggestions that an 80 to 100-strong locally-elected body should be given legislative and judicial power, the Israelis propose that an elected 11-man council should be permitted to exercise only administrative functions. As laid out in the model, these would be in the hands of the council members in charge of the following divisions: agriculture, health, religious affairs, labour and welfare, industry and commerce, transport and communication, education and culture, finance, administration of justice and local affairs (including police). Egypt has not published such a detailed autonomy plan, but it has presented Israel with a number of position papers. Among the points in these which Israel has already rejected is the idea that any new autonomy authority should embrace the 100,000 residents of East Jerusalem. There have been increasing signs that the American Government may put forward an autonomy model of its own when Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, arrives in Israel later this month to take part in a scheduled plenary session of negotiations on the issue. The Israeli autonomy model is contained in a 25-page document which the authorities decided to publish to prevent further speculation about its contents. It is notable chiefly for the long list of important functions, responsibilities, and activities which Israel makes clear that it intends to keep in its own hands. Some of the remaining administrative functions would be exercised by an elected 11-man council, and others would be "shared" with the Israeli authorities. 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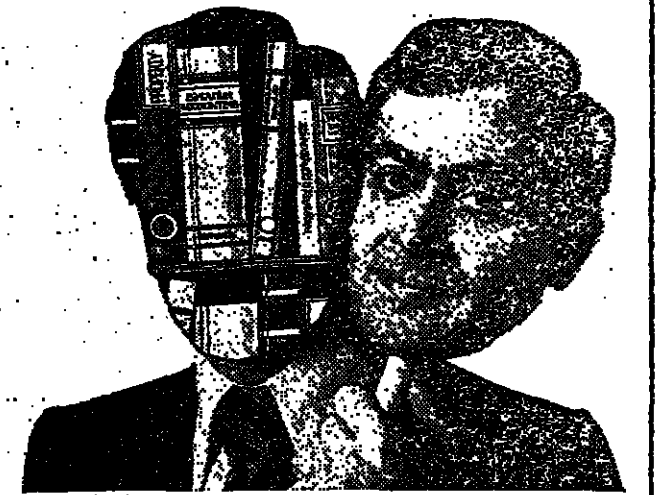
## Yugoslavia on guard after Tito operation

From Dessá Trevisan  
Belgrade, Jan 20  
Yugoslavia put on a show of increased military vigilance today as President Tito underwent the amputation of his left leg. Damage to arteries had led to complete circulatory blockage, gangrene had set in, and his life was evidently in danger. He is believed hitherto to have resisted amputation, but this morning the team of eight physicians informed him that this was the only option. "Go ahead, and do your job". Yesterday, the doctors were obviously preparing the nation for the operation, and this morning increased security was noticeable in front of public buildings in anticipation of the result of surgery at midday. About 12 anti-aircraft guns had been installed overnight near the Belgrade airport, and squadrons of fighter aircraft flew regular sorties throughout the day. But there was no evidence of alarm. The President is said to have withstood the operation well. His doctors said that his condition before the amputation was better than that of a week ago when he underwent unsuccessful surgery on his leg to relieve a blockage. The official medical bulletin said: "The immediate post-operative course is normal". The show of security evidence was intended as a double assurance that Yugoslavia is ready, and the blockade prepared for the transition. Messages from the armed forces and security forces are underlining their readiness to defend President Tito's work. Yugoslav reaction has been sharp to a recent flurry of articles in the Bulgarian press about the Macedonian issue, a bone of contention which has erupted in bitter polemics in recent years. Yugoslavia suspects that Bulgaria has a special role to play on behalf of Russia in the Balkans, and a yesterday accused it of flagrantly expressing "territorial designs", thus jeopardizing trust and stability in the region. While Yugoslavia has evidently decided to react swiftly to any such Balkan moves, it is welcoming messages supporting Yugoslavia's independence.

## Reputation of MI5 man is defended

By Stewart Tendler  
Sir William Stephenson, head of Britain's wartime security organization in New York and known as "The Man Called Intrepid", yesterday defended the reputation of MI5 deputy director of MI5, against allegations of involvement in the "Philly affair". Yesterday The Observer published details of an interview by Mr Andrew Boyle, author of The Climate of Treason, with Mr Coronary Rees before the academic died recently in a London hospital. In the 1930s Guy Burgess admitted to Mr Rees that he was an agent for Communism and named Professor Anthony Blunt, as another spy. Before he died Mr Rees told Mr Boyle that there were links between Professor Blunt, Burgess and Mr Liddell at the end of the last war. Mr Rees said: "There were to my mind something sinister about Liddell's quiet protectiveness in regard to both Blunt and Burgess". He claimed that in 1951, when Burgess and Maclean fled, Prof Blunt and Mr Liddell tried to persuade him not to tell his story of Burgess's revelations to MI5 in the 1930s. The interview also suggested that Mr Liddell was a source of information for Burgess. Mr Rees added that "Liddell and Blunt were so close socially that I believe a single word would have been enough for a warning to have been passed to Burgess" which would have led to the defections in 1951. In a telegram from the West Indies released yesterday, Sir William, Director of British Security Coordination in the Western Hemisphere from 1940 to 1946, said there had been "horrible accusations against a man I knew long and intimately as an able, honourable, exceptionally outstanding leading member of the service". Mr Liddell's career, page 3

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## England go down in a thrilling finish

England lost the first match in the final of the World Series Cricket Cup by two runs against West Indies at Melbourne. In a thrilling finish England's captain, Brearley, had to score four off the last ball for victory but his partner was run out after they had run only one. Page 6

## CBI call for action to create new jobs

The Confederation of British Industry says action must be taken to create at least 2,500,000 new jobs in the next decade to bring unemployment down to about one million. In a discussion document to be published today, the CBI says labour is used inefficiently. Details, page 15

## Terror toll in Spain

In a weekend that has seen Spain's worst civilian casualties in political violence since last summer's Basque bombings in Madrid, five people have died. Page 4

## Bird deaths query

Mr David Abou, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, is to table a question in the Commons on the way industries' discharging effluents can get the protection of water authorities. The query comes after "an unprecedented incident" in which 2,500 birds were found dead in the Mersey estuary. Page 4

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HOME NEWS

# Roll on, roll off freight ships with open garage decks potential death traps, naval men consider

By Michael Bailey  
Shipping Correspondent

There is widespread concern among maritime experts over the safety of one of the world's fastest growing ship types, the roll on, roll off ferry, about 2,000 of which are in service, many around British coasts.

Concern centres on the huge, unobstructed garage deck characteristic of these ships and the danger that as has happened a number of times, sea water entering the deck by collision or other cause will rush about in a mass and make the vessel capsize and nose dive, possibly too quickly for people on board to escape.

It should be emphasized that the fear attaches primarily to that type of freight ship; drive-on passenger ferries, like those operating across the Channel, are subject to more stringent rules.

But that leaves many ships operating with a lack of vertical subdivisions and a low freeboard (the distance between the water line and the lowest water-tight deck), thus, in the view of many experts, contravening the rules of sound ship design. A committee of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Committee (Imco), the United Nations maritime arm, is studying the matter with a view to formulating new rules.

The issue is so sensitive that neither of the two main responsible bodies in Britain, the Department of Trade or Lloyd's Register of Shipping, was prepared to discuss it with The Times.

That may be not only for fear of alarming the public, but because the issue appears to have become politicized at Imco by the Soviet Union and her allies, who are calling for such extensive deck subdivisions that in the view of Western experts

the ships would be unable to operate viably. The reason for the Soviet attitude, it is suggested, is the high strategic value of Western Europe's ships of that type (possibly half the world fleet) in the event of war; they are the most readily convertible to military use.

Research by the Imco committee has shown that the total number of losses of undivided ships is proportionately twice as great as of divided ships such as tankers, bulk carriers and passenger vessels.

Several means, including extensive subdivision below the freeboard deck, so that water entering through a hole would not flood the lower part of the ship, and a high freeboard, ensuring a good distance between the water level and the deck below which the ship is considered watertight.

Many roll on, roll off ships have no internal subdivision, and the freeboard is only a few inches. That, combined with the "free surface effect" of the garage deck, makes them, according to one naval architect, "potential death traps".

Others believe this type of ship, most of which are modern, high-technology vessels, to be fundamentally sound, requiring only minor modifications and special care by crews to maintain buoyancy and stability in case of accident.

Two recent cases were the Seaspeed Dora, a Greek-owned vessel that sank suddenly at Jeddah in June, 1977, and the Hero, a British ship, owned by Ellerman Line, of Britain, and the Danish DFDS, which sank in the North Sea in November, 1977.

Commenting afterwards on the loss of the Seaspeed Dora, Captain M. Maris, the owners' United Kingdom agent and

technical expert, said the incident showed that present Imco rules "do not cover certain factors that are specific to 'ro-ro' ships".

He suggested some modifications, including the raising of any shipside doors higher above the freeboard.

The official report of the inquiry into the loss of the Hero, published last August, found that the ship sank because water entered the garage deck and could not get out, but made no general comment on "ro-ro" design.

Behind the scenes, however, the Hero's loss has intensified the Department of Trade's concern: a series of meetings have been held with industry experts and are continuing.

Two of Britain's leading "ro-ro" operators are European Ferries, with about twenty, and British Rail Sealink, with about thirty.

Mr W. Ayres, technical director of European Ferries, said: "With one exception all our 'ro-ro' ferries fully comply with passenger requirements. The exception, the Norwegian ship, has a substantially higher freeboard than required by the rules."

Sealink's architects' department said: "We have been increasing the freeboard and are happy with the safety of our 'ro-ro' ships. But we must be aware all the time of further small ways of making them safer still."

France, after suffering a number of "ro-ro" accidents, has joined the Eastern block in Imco in calling for radical subdivisions, including the garage decks. W. Lenz, the secretary of the special committee, says it will be some time before conclusions are reached.

He attributes the present difference in attitude to technical rather than strategic opinion.

## Dispute threatens unity of Civil Service unions

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

A dispute is developing that threatens to cause a split among the eight civil service unions over an attempt by the three largest to take control of negotiations on conditions of work.

Pay negotiations under a plan proposed by the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS), the Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA), and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) would remain in the hands of individual unions.

But other matters, such as negotiations on holiday and sickness benefits and implementation of certain pay awards, would come under the three big unions, which together have two thirds of the total union membership in the Civil Service.

The smaller unions fear that the gang of three, as it is described by one official, will be able to dictate to them and to lead them in political directions to which they are opposed.

At present there is a negotiating body which comprises general secretaries and sometimes one other senior official from each union and which meets each week under the auspices of the staff side of the Civil Service Whitley Council.

An official of one of the smaller unions, yesterday said, the big three unions' move: "We do not like the idea, and what we are trying to do is modify it in some way so that a union would be represented on any negotiations which affected its members."

It is understood that the bigger unions have offered such a compromise, but it is difficult to see how it would work in practice, because negotiations for the whole Civil Service inevitably affect every union.

The three unions have a combined membership of about 400,000, while the five smaller unions have some 150,000, including the 21,000 in the Prison Officers' Association.

Another fear of the smaller unions is that if they appear to have been stripped of their negotiating powers, it would be more difficult for them to retain autonomy.

The unions leading the move are the SCPS and the CPSA, whose leadership in recent years has been increasingly militant. This dispute centres on the pay negotiations, last spring, that ended in industrial action. Some of the bigger unions, particularly the SCPS, felt that their efforts were baulked by the smaller unions.

The IPSA, which traditionally has been less militant than the other two big unions, was initially reluctant to join the three, but now appears to have decided that it cannot afford to stay out.

Although the plan has created bitter feelings, the union leaders are unlikely to be any disunity in the pay negotiations due to start shortly against the background of the Government's determination to contain public employees' pay rises to about 14 per cent.

The unions are expecting investigations by the Civil Service Pay Research Unit, which measures the level of increases needed to keep pace with similar jobs in the rest of the economy. The Civil Service unions are entitled to average increases of between 17 and 18 per cent.

## Estimated phone bills to beat strike

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Post Office Corporation is to introduce a new method of sending out estimated telephone bills to avert a repetition of the effects of the financially crippling strike by computer operators last year.

The proposal caused a dispute within the corporation's data processing service, with the management threatening to sue members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants for refusing to write the computer programmes because they would minimize the impact of any future industrial action.

Discussions open today between the SCPS and the management, designed to endorse a formula for introducing a scheme acceptable to both sides. The union complained that the corporation had broken procedure by not consulting on the change.

The five-month strike by computer staff at the Leeds and Harrogate offices, and the London On-Line Data Centres between April and August last year in pursuit of a pay claim held up dispatch of bills amounting to an estimated £1,000m.

The corporation had to borrow huge sums, and the Treasury decided to introduce an emergency procedure for sending out estimated bills to millions of consumers in the event of a similar strike, or industrial action by workers outside the bill centres, which had the same effect.

But when the plan was put to staff at Docos House, the data processing service offices in London, the handful of SCPS computer staff involved refused to agree to the change. The union said that the plan had been no consultation.

Over the past few days, joint talks between union and management have produced a draft formula for introducing the new scheme.

Mr Terry Deegan, SCPS Post Office group secretary, said last night: "We regret that management attempted to introduce this change without consultation, but now that they have agreed to observe the proper procedure we shall give it high priority because we recognize the need for an emergency billing procedure."

## NF chairman resigns after failing to win more power

By Ian Bradley

Mr John Tyndall is resigning as chairman of the National Front from the end of this month.

He announced his decision yesterday after a meeting of the Front's national directorate had failed to give him powers which he feels are necessary to prevent the party from breaking up.

Mr Tyndall, who is 45, has been a member of the National Front since 1968 and chairman since 1972, except for a short break in 1974-75. From 1962 to 1964 he was national secretary of the National Socialist Movement, led by Mr Colin Jordan.

There has been growing concern among the leadership of the Front over the last few months about the development of the so-called "constitutional movement", led by Mr Andrew Fountaine and Mr Paul Kavanagh, two former members of the directorate who have attracted more than 2,000 members of the National Front dissatisfied with its leadership.

Mr Tyndall also mentioned a breakaway party led by Mr Anthony Reed-Herbert, another former member of the directorate, which has gained support in the Midlands.

He said: "The support that these breakaway movements have gained is symptomatic of the general demoralization of the party, which is due to the directorate's failure to take certain decisions."

"Chief among these is their failure to remove Martin Webster, that has led to mass desertions from the party."

Mr Webster, the Front's national secretary, was yesterday made clear yesterday that he would remain an active member of the Front and stay in the directorate.

He said: "I am convinced that I can survive, but only with me leading it. The matter is now entirely in the hands of the members."

## Women killed on mountain

Two women roped together plunged hundreds of feet to their deaths in a snow-covered area known as the "Lost Valley", in Glenelg, Inverness-shire, Scotland, at the weekend.

A mountain rescue team yesterday recovered the bodies of Dr Wilsey Patten, aged 33, a careers officer, of Pispel Road, St Andrews, Fife, and

Miss Margaret Veitch, a student, aged 23, of Gathouse of Fleet, Dumfries.

An RAF helicopter yesterday rescued two climbers injured separately in the same area. One broke a leg in an avalanche on 'Sca' Fell. The other fell 900 feet from Striding Edge, on Helvellyn. Both are in hospital.

## Bill will widen access to art works

By Frances Gibb

Painting, sculpture and furniture valued at millions of pounds may be brought out of private homes and storage and lent to museums throughout the country as a result of a government amendment to the National Heritage Bill.

Local authority and university museums, public libraries and record offices will be able to take on loan works of art from private individuals, or one another, because the Government has agreed to indemnify the owners against loss or damage.

But now only national museums and galleries have enjoyed the privilege of a government indemnity and local authority museums have themselves had to bear the crippling insurance costs of such loans.

In practice that has meant that most loans have been refused, as local authorities increasingly could not meet the high insurance costs.

The decision, to be written



Mr Rory Brady, president of the Provisional Sinn Féin, addressing the party's annual convention in Dublin yesterday.

## Railmen's closed shop dismissals 'breached human rights charter'

By Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent

Within the next few days the Government will receive a report by the Committee of Ministers (of the 21 member states of the Council of Europe) as to the United Kingdom Government. It is laid down that the Government "shall not be at liberty to publish it".

Officially, the Government still does not know what the report says, but ministers are confident that its contents would not require a reassessment of the Employment Bill.

If the commission has in effect taken the view that the closed shop, as such, is against the Convention, Britain would almost certainly make the matter further to the European Court of Human Rights, for a final and binding ruling.

If however, as is likely, the commission has taken a narrow approach, basing its findings on the specific circumstances of the three men, there appear to be no dangerous implications for the future of the Government's legislation or closed shop agreements in general.

Under clause 6 of the Employment Bill, dismissal of an employee because of his non-membership of a trade union would be unlawful if his refusal to join was based on "conscience or other deeply held

personal conviction to being a member, or if he was already an employee when the closed shop agreement came into effect."

In the case of new closed shop agreements, dismissal for non-membership would be unlawful unless a secret ballot had shown more than 80 per cent of the employees in favour of the closed shop. Any finding of unfair dismissal would carry with it the right to financial compensation.

Sir Ian Percival, QC, the Solicitor General, who argued the case in Strasbourg last July on behalf of the Conservative Government, pointed out that under the Government's proposals people in similar circumstances to the three railwaymen would not be left without a remedy, so there would be no further breaches of the Convention.

However, the Government is worried about a different aspect of the case. It believes, as did its Labour predecessor, that the case should not have come before the commission in the first place. The Convention applies only to contraventions by states.

The Government says that although "British Rail" is a nationalized industry it runs its own affairs and is not an arm of the state.

The commission's report on the case was adopted last month, and will now be given to the Committee of Ministers (of the 21 member states of the Council of Europe) as to the United Kingdom Government. It is laid down that the Government "shall not be at liberty to publish it".

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## Private steel sector fears shutdown

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Britain's private sector steel-makers, who account for about a quarter of steel production, face complete shutdown from next Sunday unless today's talks by union leaders and British Steel with the Prime Minister provide the basis for a settlement of the steel strike.

Nearly 20,000 workers employed by private sector steel-makers are due to join the strike from January 27 unless the dispute is settled by then.

The effect of pulling out the private sector workers coupled with the action of other unions halting the movement of steel would result in a shutdown of all steelmaking in Britain.

The private sector companies are increased at being involved in the strike, since they have no dispute with the union. Companies in membership of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, which today launch a strong attack on the union's policy.

They have issued a warning that if their workers are called out to support the action being

taken by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation on a number of companies will have to close down permanently.

The strike has affected a number of private sector firms as a result of secondary picketing and instructions to members in private companies not to allow steel in or out of factories. Over the weekend Tube Investments announced that it was to lay off about 2,000 workers employed by the Round Oak Company, which operates jointly with British Steel.

Ductile Steels have laid off 200 workers and nearly 700 others face the prospect of being laid off by the end of this week. Specialist steel-makers in the Sheffield area have also been affected and more than 300 workers employed by the Arthur Lee group are due to be laid off today.

Steel stockholders, who are the vital link in the chain between steel producers and big industrial consumers, have also been affected. About 10 per cent of the 264 members of the National Association of Steel Stockholders have been picketed by steel workers.

## 'More layoffs' warning as 500 are set to leave

The management at British Steel's Stanton works at Ilkerton, Derbyshire, issued a warning yesterday that there would be more layoffs at the plant, where 950 are to be laid off today.

Only 5 per cent of the workforce is directly affected by the national strike, but the plant has been picketed and production after closing the plant about £500,000 a week.

The first of more than 500 men are due to leave the works later this month.

At King's Lynn, Norfolk, flying steel pickets have photographed lorries leaving the docks after imported steel was

smuggled out of the port. Extra pickets have been sent from Corby to prevent the movement of steel shipments from Germany.

In South Yorkshire police have discovered an unexpected way of getting recruits on the picket line. Eight pickets, six from Barnsley and two from Sheffield, were to be impressed while watching police in action during the steel strike that they have applied to join the force.

In Glasgow it was announced that 50 "flying pickets" are due to leave Lanarkshire today for Aberdeen with the intention of freezing supplies to the North Sea oil industry.

## No 10 confrontation today

Continued from page 1

conveyed on Saturday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, that there is no new public money for British Steel.

The Government is also opposed to the unions' argument that some of the £450m already set aside for investment and to cover redundancy payments to 52,000 steelworkers, whose jobs are at risk, should be diverted into financing a settlement of their 17 per cent-plus claim.

Mr Sirs said yesterday: "We hope to impress on her the justice of our claim and the fact that support it". He later told

the strike rally: "I do not suppose I will get anything out of it (the meeting), but she will learn the truth of the situation from me and you may be sure I will be demanding justice for the steel workers of this country."

British Steel's chairman was cautious about the prospect of a new initiative to get the sides negotiating again. "At the moment the matter is being handled by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service", Sir Charles said.

Acas is expected to conduct further soundings on the scope for bringing the two sides together, after its 10-day assessment of the positions of all the unions and management involved.

## Ministers given deadline for decisions on cuts

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Ministers involved in the Government's latest public expenditure cuts exercise have been told that their proposals must be completed within the next fortnight so that a decision can be taken by the Cabinet.

Treasury ministers have been holding almost daily talks with their colleagues in departments most expected to cut their programmes, with the aim of meeting the target figure of £1,000m for the financial year 1980-81.

The Department of Health and Social Security is undoubtedly the most hard pressed department as a source for cuts, having been asked to find at least half of the total savings. Areas being examined include removing the automatic link with inflation from social security benefits.

On top of these cuts there came warnings yesterday of the possibility of budget increases in petrol, tobacco or alcohol. When Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was asked on BBC radio whether he was responsible only for public expenditure, but agreed that those issues, although speculative, had been discussed by MPs.

But Mr Biffen, interviewed on The World this weekend, said there had to be a balance between direct and indirect taxation and excise duties. He pointed out that taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol had not increased anything like as much

as other indirect taxation, namely value-added tax.

Whitehall was careful to point out yesterday that public expenditure cuts and any possible tax increases in the Chancellor's Budget on March 25 were two separate issues. The Government's intention was to get public expenditure down by £2,000m for the next financial year, half of that, it was hoped, came out of discussions with the EEC about Britain's contribution to the Community budget.

Signs that arguments developing in Whitehall between the Treasury and the spending departments are getting tougher came in a speech by Mr Biffen on Saturday, when he said that prudent control of public spending was central to the economic fortunes of the Government.

It was such expenditure more than any other factor that would set the scene for the Chancellor's taxation and borrowing policies, he told a meeting in London of the Conservative Political Centre.

Mr Biffen, the spokesman, tells us there are limits to the levels of taxation that can be levied in a Western democracy," he said. "The resentment and anger of a taxpayers' revolt is never that far absent—as the example of California will testify."

"Thus we must have realistic levels of public spending that will not undermine the longer-term strategy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce rates of direct taxation."

## Escaped soldiers back in custody

By Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

Three soldiers who escaped from military custody at Alder Grove airport, near Belfast, on Saturday were in police custody last night.

One telephone to the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday morning, from the Salfield area, several miles from Belfast, and gave himself up. The other two were detained in a car in the afternoon at Comber and taken to Newtownards police

station, c. Down. An army issue unloaded rifle was in the car.

The police said the two were arrested without resistance. The three, members of the Green Howards, had been in custody for minor offences.

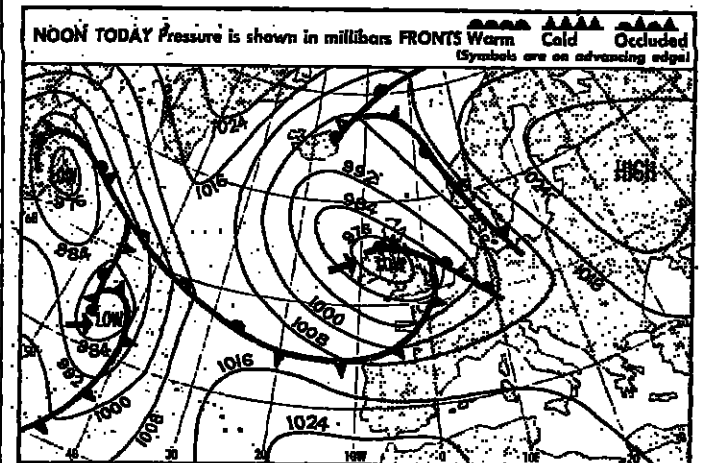
Murder victim found: The body of a man, who was shot and murdered in Londonderry on Friday was discovered yesterday in his wrecked car at the bottom of an embankment. Mr Frank Cox, aged 35, married with two children, was driving along the Limavady road on his

way home from night duty at the Magilligan prison when his car was hit by a hail of bullets.

Explosion 'was premature': The Provisional IRA has confirmed that the bomb that exploded in a Belfast-bound commuter train on Thursday was off prematurely, killing one of its volunteers, Mr Kevin Delaney, aged 26, from Belfast.

They offered deepest sympathy to the relatives of the dead. "The intended target was not the civilians on the train."

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.55 a.m.	4.29 p.m.
Moon rises:	Moon sets:
9.53 a.m.	9.26 p.m.
First quarter: January 24.	
Lighting up: 4.59 p.m. to 7.24 a.m.	
High water: London Bridge, 3.59 a.m., 7.5m; 4.28 p.m., 7.5m. Avonmouth, 9.40 a.m., 13.6m; 10.02 p.m., 13.4m. Dover, 1.00 a.m., 7.0m; 1.23 p.m., 6.7m. Bull, 8.36 a.m., 7.4m; 8.42 p.m., 7.7m. Liverpool, 1.23 a.m., 9.4m; 1.44 p.m., 9.8m.	
1ft = 0.3048m	1m = 3.208 ft

A vigorous and deep depression will cross the Irish Republic, with frontal troughs crossing many districts of the United Kingdom.

Forecast for 6 a.m. to midnight: East Anglia, Midlands: Mostly cloudy with periods of sleet or snow, possibly heavy, turning to rain and then showers. Wind SE, strong to gale, veering SW; max temp 4° to 5°C (39° to 41°F). W. Cent. District: Cloudy, periods of sleet or snow, heavy in places with drifting, turning to rain. Wind SE, strong to gale, backing W, temp 3° to 4°C (37° to 39°F). Wales: Mostly cloudy, periods

of rain or snow turning showery, perhaps further snow later; wind S, strong to gale, veering W, fresh; max temp 4°C (39°F). Isle of Man: Cloudy, periods of rain or snow, heavy in places, drifting possible; wind E, strong to gale, backing variable; max temp 4°C (39°F). Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: Becoming generally cloudy; periods of sleet or snow moving in some heavy with drifting; wind SE, backing E, strong to gale; max temp 3° to 4°C (37° to 41°F). Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright intervals with showers and scattered wintry showers, more cloudy later, probably with sleet; wind SE, fresh, gale later; max temp 3° to 4°C (37° to 39°F).

Ireland: Cloudy, periods of sleet or snow, heavy in places with drifting, less persistent later, wind strong to gale, backing W, moderating later; max temp 3° (37°F).

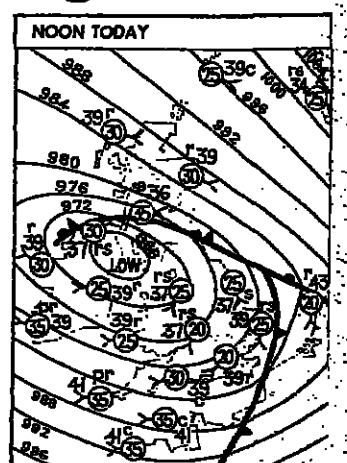
Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Generally cold and unsettled with outbreaks of rain or snow in many places; rather windy; night frosts.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SE, veering SW, strong to gale. Locally severe gale for a time. Sea very rough.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun; m, snow.

Aberdeen	c	12.5	Cardiff	c	1.30	L. Palmes	c	12.5	Nice	c	1.30
Aldershot	c	12.5	Colonge	c	1.30	Liebert	c	12.5	Orléans	c	1.30
Alexander	c	12.5	Colonge	c	1.30	Liebert	c	12.5	Orléans	c	1.30
Amsterdam	c	12.5	Dublin	c	1.30	London	c	12.5	Paris	c	1.30
Antwerp	c	12.5	Edinburgh	c	1.30	London	c	12.5	Paris	c	1.30
Athlone	c	12.5	Florence	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Belfast	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Birmingham	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Bombay	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Boston	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Brecon	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Bristol	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Buckingham	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Burton	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Cardiff	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Cardigan	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Carlisle	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Caswell	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Chester	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Chichester	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Chorley	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Colchester	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Consett	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Cork	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Croydon	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Dublin	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Durham	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Edinburgh	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Exeter	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Farnham	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Fife	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Folkestone	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Glasgow	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Gloucester	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Goucester	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Grimsby	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Harrogate	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Hastings	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Hemel Hempstead	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Hertford	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Huddersfield	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Ilkerton	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Ilkeston	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Inverness	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Ipswich	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Man	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Wight	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Islington	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Skye	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Shetland	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Orkney	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Mull	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Arran	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Jura	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Rhé	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Jersey	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Guernsey	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Alderney	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Sark	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30
Isle of Manx	c	12.5	Genoa	c	1.30	Madrid	c	12.5	Rabat	c	1.30



B—blue; sky: bc—half clouded; C—cloudy; S—sunny; S—light; S—mist; S—rain; S—snow; S—drizzle; S—fog; S—haze; S—rain; S



## HOME NEWS

## Scottish groups out to kill Bill that extends police powers

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, which begins its committee stage in Parliament at the end of this month, has already caused a predictable stir of discontent from civil liberties groups because of the extra powers it would give to police.

If the Bill is approved, Scottish police will have the right to stop and search anyone they have reasonable grounds to suspect of carrying an offensive weapon in public.

In addition, police would be able to detain any suspect for up to six hours, using "reasonable force" if necessary, and to require a suspect or potential witnesses to remain in police presence long enough to enable the police to make reasonable checks.

The Scottish Council for Civil Liberties said the extended police powers created a new concept of detention short of arrest. Given the existing powers of the police, the council believed that the new proposals were unnecessary.

They would lessen rather than strengthen the control of the police and invite abuse because of the absence of any external controls. They would contribute nothing to the greater prevention or detection of crimes and offences.

Many of the more thoughtful police officers, the council said, considered the proposed powers unnecessary and likely to lead to poorer police-public relationships.

Many of the proposed changes

in court procedure and the rules of evidence were seen by the council as direct attacks on the rights of suspects.

An accused person appearing on a serious charge would have to submit to a pre-trial examination at which he could be questioned about his defence. The exercise of his right to silence could be commented on at subsequent court proceedings.

The Campaign to Stop the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill argues that existing police powers are wider than is commonly believed and already strong enough. The example of the drugs laws already showed they would not deter law breakers.

The rights of citizens, the campaign declares, should not be sacrificed in the name only of increased police efficiency.

What has helped to bring about a demand for stronger controls in Scotland are the recent vicious assaults and murders. The murder rate in Glasgow is almost double that of other cities of the same size.

Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, describes the Bill as the most radical, desirable and comprehensive reform of Scottish law for many years.

He pointed out that the powers to search would be less than those given to airport security officers.

"To suggest that this amounts to destruction of civil liberties is like suggesting that the fire brigades are destroying our freedom if they burn a burning house without the permission of the owner," he said.

## Guy Liddell, the professional who held together a band of gifted amateurs 'Founding father' of MI5 had a democratic attitude

By Stewart Tendler

Mr Guy Liddell belonged to the type of civil servant whose entry in Who's Who was, and still is, terse to the point of being opaque. He is described as "Civil Assistant, War Office" and there is little to show he was among the "founding fathers" of MI5, retiring as deputy director.

It was perhaps a fitting job for the descendant of Alice Liddell, the model for Alice in Wonderland. Scion of an aristocratic Northumberland family, Mr Liddell was the son of a comptroller to the household of one of Queen Victoria's families.

According to friends, relatives and former colleagues, his beliefs were fashioned by the late Victorian times into which he was born and they maintained that he never deviated from deep patriotism, conservatism and strong Christianity.

He was born in 1892 and his early life bears little resemblance to the men named in the "Philly" column. Educated at a minor public school, Mr Liddell never went to university, won an MC in the First World War (as did his two brothers) and was in counterespionage while Philip and the others wear still children.

It was thought that he would go into the Foreign Office but after the war he joined Scotland Yard, working in counterespionage. According to one source his early work included a continuing investigation into the Siege of Sidney Street.

He had a liaison with MI5 and early in the 1930s moved over to the service. To one col-

league he was "a rather tangential man. He was not a good organizer or one who followed through his ideas, but he had a very fruitful mind."

As war approached in 1939 he was responsible for reorganizing the communications department of the Foreign Office after a Russian defector revealed "serious leaks, which were traced to a former Army officer."

He had also worked during the 1930s in building up contacts with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the FBI in the United States. Mr J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI, presented him with a large cigarette lighter in token of their work together.

It has been claimed that Mr Liddell delayed the American response to warnings of Pearl Harbour by passing the information through Hoover rather than more immediate routes to the White House. Those who defend him, point out that the FBI was the right channel and the Admiralty also passed on a warning.

As MI5 was enlarged under wartime conditions Mr Liddell is credited with holding together the disparate collection of gifted amateurs drafted in from the universities. He offered an "unbureaucratic, democratic" attitude which appealed to the dons and earned him the nickname of "Darling Guy" among subordinates.

His theory of office politics was that the more important the decision the lower the level at which it should be taken, since the men on the ground knew the situation best.

By 1945, Mr Liddell was one of the two key figures in MI5



Guy Liddell, art collector and a good cellist.

below the director. As head of B Division he had been in charge of the operation to turn Axis spies against their masters. Separated from his wife, a member of the Baring family, in the 1930s (nor 1943, as suggested by Mr Goronwy Rees) he was among the group of intelligence men who mixed socially during the war years in a circle that included Philby, (Prof) Blunt and others.

Mr Liddell's friends strongly dispute Mr Rees's suggestion that he was a friend of Burgess, and quote his strong disapproval.

When Professor Blunt tried to get Burgess recruited into MI5 Mr Liddell took advice and

refused to bring him into the organization.

Despite the nature of his work Mr Liddell was something of an aesthete in the sense that he was a very good cellist and a keen collector of paintings and English pottery. Both he and Professor Blunt were also members of the Travellers' Club.

Based at "PO Box 500, Curzon Street", Mr Liddell rose through the service to become deputy director as the Cold War developed. He was an inveterate chain smoker and driver of an aging Austin Seven, and his life was bounded by the service, a wide circle of friends, concerts with a Bromley orchestra and recitals with several famous musicians.

But outside his office he rarely spoke about his work, and he held the postwar spy stories in disdain.

In 1951 he was involved in plans to interrogate Maclean when the diplomat fled with Burgess. Mr Rees has said there was a 10-day gap before he was interviewed about events by Mr Liddell. Intelligence sources say the story he had to "baked" at first and there were more immediate priorities.

Mr Liddell left MI5 in 1953, a year after he was due to retire, and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. In 1944 he was made CBE. Mr Liddell became responsible for security for the growing atomic energy industry. He died still working in 1958.

He took with him much of his own account of what happened during the war and in 1951. But papers still remain. He was a keen diarist and his family passed his diaries to MI5, where they are now stored.

## Manx talks on cutting all ties with Whitehall

From Our Correspondent

Douglas

A Manx Government deputation will be in London today for talks with the Home Secretary on increased independence for the Isle of Man. Its members hope Mr William Whitelaw will open the way for talks leading to full internal autonomy for the island by removing all Whitehall control over Manx domestic affairs.

In June the Manx Parliament, Tynwald, reaffirmed that as the guiding principle in the development of the future constitutional relationship between the Manx and British Governments.

In particular it would remove Home Office control over Manx domestic legislation.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys, said yesterday: "We hope to find out what the attitude of the Home Secretary is and what the ground rules might be in the discussions to come."

"It is a large constitutional advance that we have in mind, but one which is long overdue. We are lagging far behind the progress that has been made by the world's colonial nations in the last 20 years."

## Rector files claim for damage to vestments

From Our Correspondent

Peterborough

A clergyman is claiming compensation from Peterborough City Council after his vestments caught fire while he was conducting funeral services at its crematorium.

The Rev Robert Taylor, rector of Haddon, was wearing a nylon surplice, which burst into flames when it touched a gas fire that had been installed while the central heating system was being repaired. His cassock was also burnt.

The rector's claim for £100.80 to pay for a new cassock and surplice has been sent to the council's insurers.

## More hostels to stay open all day

The Youth Hostels Association is aiming to have more hostels open seven days a week and more open all day. Mrs Jean Corlett, the association's Lakeland regional chairman told hostellers at the weekend.

Speaking in Kendal at the annual meeting of the region, the biggest in England and Wales, Mrs Corlett said: "It is not realistic for some hostels to be open seven days, but some key hostels in London, York and other places could remain open every day."

In this, the jubilee year of the association, Mrs Corlett said, they intended to simplify the grading of hostels to leave only three: special, standard and simple. They would also be preparing in the next decade for computerized bookings.

At the same time wardens could expect progress towards better accommodation and remuneration, and towards a five-day week. More hostels, however, were unlikely.

"Some small, uneconomic hostels will be closed. Also, when fire escape provisions come, others are likely to close also because they will not be able to meet the financial requirements."

"But there will be an increase in special hostels and more refined simple ones, with more provision for self-catering and family accommodation."

## Man on double murder charge dies in prison

A man awaiting trial on a double murder charge died at Brixton prison, London, yesterday. The Home Office said the coroner and next of kin had been told about the death of Rick Zladoslaw Crzybkowski, aged 19.

He had been committed in custody on charges of murdering Virginia Bateman, aged 24, hairdresser, whose body was found in Richmond Park in August, and Belinda Best-White, aged 27, whose body was on waste ground near her home in Canbury Park Road, Kingston, Surrey, on September 1.

Last night the Home Office refused to release details of how the prisoner died.

## 'Armageddon' call for civil defence corps

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

In the event of war, British troops on the European mainland would feel they were fighting for nothing if the people they were trying to defend were left totally unprotected, according to a Greater London Young Conservatives' booklet, which strongly criticises government policy on civil defence.

The morale and will of the people would have a direct bearing on the troops' ability to carry on.

The booklet, to be published next month, says it does not appear to have occurred to the powers that be to ensure that advance preparations are adequate.

The Home Office budget of £26m a year, while effectively utilized, "falls massively short" of the United Kingdom's necessary investment in the survival of its population in a modern war.

Among the recommendations in the booklet, *A Place Called Armageddon*, is a call for the establishment of a civil defence corps composed of volunteers with a small professional cadre. Their duties should include acting as advisers to the public, telling them what to do before and after attack and acting as mobile reconnaissance teams to monitor fallout.

A national home defence inspectorate should be formed to monitor local authority preparations and to ensure that minimum standards are being maintained.

A system of pre-attack food rationing must be introduced, to enable everyone to lay in basic stocks to survive after attack. Stocks of food could be preserved by freeze-drying in blast-proof and radiation-proof shelters, for distribution after attack.

Nuclear deterrent, page 10

Welsh holiday home burnt

Another suspicious fire broke out yesterday at a holiday home in Wales, a single-storey cottage in Abermule, near Newton. Powys Firemen were unable to save it.

The cottage, which is at the side of the Montgomery canal, is owned by an Englishman. Forensic science experts searched for clues to the cause of the fire.

In recent weeks several attacks have been made on holiday homes in Wales. Earlier this

month an attempt was made to set a cottage in North Wales on fire by pouring paraffin through the letter box, and the words "Free Wales Army" were daubed on the walls. Just before Christmas seven holiday cottages were set on fire.

A police officer said yesterday: "No extremist Welsh nationalist organization has claimed responsibility and at the moment we do not know whether an extremist group was responsible for this fire."

## Exhibition reflects growing interest in antique maps

By a Staff Reporter

Investors who have been priced out of the art market are turning instead to antique maps, according to Stanley Gibbons International, leading dealers in maps, stamps and coins.

"They are still much cheaper than a painting," Mr Yasha Beresin, head of Gibbons's maps department, says. "You can get a nineteenth-century

map for as little as £8, so people wanting an alternative investment, who cannot afford paintings or watercolours, are turning to maps."

Maps had proved to be a popular investment because they could be appreciated for their aesthetic qualities as well as their monetary value. "You cannot hang a stamp or gold bar on the wall."

Gibbons have just launched a public exhibition of some 100 antique maps of the Holy Land and Middle East, where maps can be bought for anything from £15 to £1,000.

The most expensive map in their stock is Mercator's "Hemispheres", from his famous atlas, for sale at £2,500. Gibbons now include maps with stamps and bonds in in-

vestment portfolios compiled for clients.

At the exhibition, which lasts until the end of February, are maps dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. They include an early woodcut view from the first edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle, circa 1493, showing the destruction of Jerusalem.

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## Discretionary rule on benefits tightened and school-leavers' right delayed in Bill

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government's Social Security Bill, which aims principally at breaking the earnings link for pension increases and reforming the supplementary benefits scheme, begins its committee stage in the Commons tomorrow.

Committee members have been given a briefing which spells out some of the areas that regulations will cover under the Bill.

The new regulations indicate that the discretionary rules under which families can claim lump sums to pay for essential clothing and shoes will be much tighter, and that the new rule delaying the right to benefit for school-leavers will discriminate against those leaving at the end of the summer term.

The Bill will not add to the social security budget, but will redistribute £60m among claimants. Thus, the gains for 700,000 people, mainly lone parents and the unemployed, will be paid for by losses for 1,800,000 people, mainly pensioners.

Some 19,000 claimants will lose more than £3 a week under the Bill, while 118,000 will gain more than £3.10 a week.

The briefing shows that the Government intends to use regulations to reduce considerably the number of lump sum payments to claimants. In 1978, the last date for which figures are available, 392,000 families received average sums of £22 under that heading to pay for essential clothing and shoes.

The briefing states that such payments will still be made, but only in prescribed cases and for prescribed amounts.

For purchases of essential clothing, they will be made only where people could have claimed benefit but did not do so; where the need has arisen other than by wear and tear; or where sickness or admission to hospital makes certain purchases necessary.

In exceptional cases essential clothing payments may also be made "where in the opinion of the benefit officer an expense has been, or has to be, incurred in order to avoid severe hardship" and where no other statutory authority has a duty to meet the expense.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, described the new regulations yesterday as "disturbing".

She estimated that the number of payments for clothing

and shoes would be halved. Yet families often could survive on benefit only by eking out their weekly amounts with occasional lump sums to pay for clothing and shoes.

The briefing shows that school-leavers will not be able to claim benefit until the first week in January if they leave at the end of the December term, or the week after Easter Monday if they leave after the spring term.

In both cases school-leavers would not normally expect to start work until after the public holidays. But those leaving at the end of the summer term will not be able to claim benefit until the first week in September, leaving a considerable gap without income for those unable to find work quickly.

The new equal treatment regulations, which will allow married women to claim benefits for dependants on the same basis as men, will not take effect until November, 1983.

The new regulations will also allow couples on supplementary benefit to qualify for the higher long-term rate when either reaches the age of 65, instead of only when the man reaches that age. There were 6,000 such couples in November, 1978.



## HOME NEWS

## MP to raise pollution of estuary after 2,500 birds are killed

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

The way industries discharge hazardous effluents can gain the protection of water authorities is being questioned by Mr David Alton, the Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill.

The matter is being raised in a parliamentary written question specifically about the pollution of the Mersey estuary by the most toxic of the lead compounds, which has produced one of the most serious destructions of wildlife on record.

The cause of the trouble has yet to be established and is the subject of a meeting in Liverpool today between the North West Water Authority, the Associated Ocel Company, scientists from government laboratories and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and representatives of local authorities.

The type of pollution and the nature of the hazard have been described by Dr James Cadbury, head of research of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, as an unprecedented incident.

About 2,500 dunlin, redshank, curlew, black-throated gulls and ducks were found dead on feeding grounds on the north side of the estuary.

Organic lead was found in the tissues of the birds in analyses at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in November.

The concentrations of between 10 and 40 parts a million of organic lead compare with about one part a million of total lead recorded in tissues of birds

from the Tees estuary, one of the most polluted in the United Kingdom, and virtually undetectable levels of birds feeding in the Wash.

These findings contradicted the original views of the water authority and Associated Ocel, manufacturers of lead additives for petrol at Ellesmere Port.

A statement agreed by them on November 21 said that no tetra-alkyl lead, the compound under suspicion, had been found in their study of bird tissues.

By last week there was a complete reversal by the company and the water authority. A new statement said levels of lead higher than normal in tissues and also in the principal food of the birds had been found.

Much of the lead was present as tri-alkyl lead, which may have arisen from the production or use of lead anti-knock compounds or from activities associated with disposal of canal dredgers.

The statement says extensive investigations have not disclosed any accidents, either within the company's works or at adjacent oil refineries that use their product, which could result in additional discharges of tetra-alkyl lead, but such an occurrence cannot be ruled out entirely.

It says that the Ellesmere Port factory was commissioned in 1954 and extensions were carried out in 1972. Effluent treatment has been in place since recent years £700,000 spent on new plant.

As a consequence lead levels in the discharge have been reduced appreciably.

## Grants help to put art into public places

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

The Arts Council's scheme to promote art in public places, launched 18 months ago, has proved so successful that £40,000 has been committed from next year's budget to help that the figure will reach £200,000.

The idea is to encourage companies and organizations in both the public and private sectors to commission works of art to incorporate into new projects and to brighten up existing buildings; the council is anxious to encourage the idea that the commissioning of a painting or sculpture amounts to only a tiny proportion of total building costs.

The council considers applications for grants towards the cost of the commission or the purchase of works of art for any interior or exterior space that can reasonably be defined as a public area. That can even include a factory if the exterior is visible from, say, a railway line or motorway.

Last year, in terms of grants or promises, the council committed £100,000, which was linked with £220,000 from other sources. Council money did not, however, always generate other funds because local authorities have found it harder to justify such spending.

Projects so far approved and either completed or underway include a £5,000 sculpture for Southwark Cathedral (£1,000 from the Arts Council), a tapestry for Hereford Cathedral worth £1,500, a third of the cash coming from the council's shopping centre commissions by Sainsbury's to which the council has contributed £3,000.

## New opera group to start tour in Weymouth

By Martin Huckerby  
Arts Reporter

An opera company is to be launched next Monday in the Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth. It is the first date of the inaugural tour of Opera 80, a touring company established by the Arts Council to replace Opera for All.

The scheme attracted criticism from supporters of Opera for All and three other small opera groups which also had their Arts Council subsidy withdrawn.

However, the council believed that groups working solely with piano accompaniment, or with very small numbers of orchestral players, were no longer the best way to present opera in places where neither theatres nor a sufficient number of large enough for a visit by a full-scale company.

Opera 80 has an orchestra of 25 and a team of youthful singers, but there is no chorus. On its first tour it will visit 18 centres all over England.

The company will be presenting two linked productions by Stewart Trooper: Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Both will be sung in English.

## Nephew loses farm tenancy

From Our Correspondent  
Coventry

A farmer had no right to continue staying at a farm after his uncle's death because he was not a "child of the family", a land tribunal has ruled.

The uncle did not marry and had no children, and tribunal members decided that the nephew had no legal right to the tenancy.

Mr Thomas Berridge, aged 52, a farmer, who is married with a daughter, of Arbury Lane, Farm, Griff Lane, Nuneaton, near Coventry, has been asked to leave his farm.

He said yesterday: "It is quite farcical and a real tragedy." But he is hoping that his solicitor can find a way to allow him to continue running

## Seamen's union plans to 'black' cruise liner

From Our Correspondent  
Liverpool

The Greek-owned 12,000-ton cruise liner, La Perla, lying under charter to the National Alexandra Dock at Liverpool on the invitation of the Wallace-based Cruise Club, may be "blacklisted" by the National Union of Seamen.

Local officials of the union say the vessel is "blacklisted" because of its alleged involvement in the payment of the crew low wages. The ban would be lifted only if pay was improved.

The vessel was formally blacklisted by the union after docking early on Saturday at the end of a 600-passenger cruise to North Africa.

The Cruise Club claims that deficiencies in catering and accommodation on a Christmas and New Year cruise were not all rectified, despite assurances from the owners, and intend to claim damages. The owners say they have endeavoured to meet the club's requirements and intend to counter-claim for damages.

Meanwhile, a 14-day cruise to the Iberian ports due to start yesterday has been cancelled and the 400 passengers are to get their money back.

Mr Berridge was aged two when his mother died, and he was looked after by his uncle, Mr Stanley Berridge. He eventually took over the running of the farm. When the uncle died last year he hoped to take over the tenancy.

The landlady, Mr Francis Fitzroy-Newsdate, wanted someone else to have the farm and the issue went to a lands tribunal hearing.

Mr Berridge, who has about 12 months to move out, said: "I always accepted I was part of the family. Everything I have is in this farm."

Mr Fitzroy-Newsdate has declined to comment.

## WEST EUROPE

## Extremists kill four at Bilbao bar in worst attack on civilians since Madrid summer bombings

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Jan 20

Political extremists launched attacks in three places over the weekend, killing five people, injuring 15 and wrecking the Madrid sales office of British Airways and two other international airlines.

A powerful bomb went off early today in a crowded bar in the Bilbao industrial suburb of Baracaldo, killing four people. The body of one victim was so mutilated that police took most of the day establishing his identity. He was a farmer with six children.

Other victims included a married couple and a middle-aged man. All were customers of the bar.

By late today it was still not clear which faction in the troubled Basque country was responsible for the blast. Basque separatists and extreme right-wingers were both under suspicion because the bar was a well-known Basque nationalist, while his establishment was a gathering place for members of the paramilitary Civil Guard.

Only a few hours earlier, in Guetcho, also near Bilbao, a travelling salesman was playing his usual game of cards yesterday with friends in a cafeteria near his home when a young man and woman walked in, pulled out pistols and shot him nine times. He was dead on arrival at hospital.

Information sources said that the separatist organization ETA, which has been active since the Baracaldo explosion was the worst, in terms of civilian casualties from political violence, since ETA bombed Madrid's airport and two main railway stations last July, killing five people.

In Madrid, bombs went off at about midnight yesterday at the sales offices of British Airways and Trans World Airlines, and Swissair, all on the main shopping street, the Gran Via. It was the second terrorist attack on the British Airways and TWA offices here in two months.

A caller told foreign news agencies that the explosives were placed by the Commando for Justice against the Genocide of Armenians.

Two women passerby were injured in the Madrid explosions, and parked cars and buildings were damaged. Police estimated that the charges contained about 2lb of plastic explosive each.

Three escape: Three suspected ETA members escaped from the Madrid explosion. ETA spokesman told San Sebastian today, police said.

They said the prisoners, including a woman awaiting trial for alleged connections with ETA, fled after disarming several prison guards at gunpoint and escaping in their uniforms. —AP.

Immigration is probably the most difficult problem to solve. There are 361,000 Algerian workers, and a total Algerian population of more than 800,000 in France. As part of the measures to alleviate unemployment, the French Government would like to send them back progressively.

Algeria agreed in principle but on a much slower rate. The Algerian trade deficit which is about 3,000m francs (£333m) could, Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, assured his visitor, be made up by substantial increases in Algerian gas sales into the old style cold war era.

A number of working parties have been set up

farewell banquet he gave for his French colleague of a "new and regenerated climate between France and Algeria" and of the "warm and friendly welcome" he had received.

Things had changed, he said, since he arrived in Paris. For their part the French were also anxious to emphasize that a promising new start has been made. During his visit, the Algerian Foreign Minister, who was the object of unusual courtesies and attentions.

He was received by the President for far longer than scheduled. He met the Prime Minister and had several sessions with his French opposite number, who remarked, at that time, that the visit, between France and Algeria, "is much more than diplomatic relations, but a special relationship between two peoples, who can do great things together."

Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, attributed progress accomplished during the visit to Mr Ben Yahia himself, who is certainly a welcome change for the French from his explosive and unpredictable predecessor Mr Abdul Amir Ben Bella.

Outstanding problems were not, of course, disposed of in two days of talks, although these were well prepared by the French Foreign Minister's own visit to Algeria last June. Developments in Iraq and Afghanistan also helped to create a favourable climate for the meeting.

They have heightened for both countries the attractions of a "multipolar" world, at a time of the threatened relapse into the old style cold war era.

Mr Ben Yahia spoke unequivocally yesterday at the

21 guns for dead king's homecoming

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Jan 20

The monarch who left Spain in 1941, half a century ago to make way for a republic, received a posthumous 21-gun salute this weekend as his remains arrived home for interment in the ancient monastery-palace of El Escorial.

Alfonso XIII, grandfather of King Juan Carlos, began his reign in 1902 and died in exile in Rome in 1941. His reign was followed by the second Spanish republic, which was overthrown by General Franco in 1939 to 1975.

King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia, their three children and Don Juan of Borbon, the King's father, kept a silence yesterday in the snowy mountain town of El Escorial, about 30 miles north of Madrid, as a goose-stepping guard of honour escorted the coffin through icy streets lined by thousands of spectators and into the basilica where the huge stone monastery for a requiem Mass.

Alfonso XIII left a written request to be buried in the mausoleum inside the monastery which is the last resting place of most of Spain's kings and queens of the past few centuries. The royal family waited until now to have his body interred in order to make sure that the country's new constitutional monarchy is here to stay.

Don Juan, son of the exiled monarch, accompanied his father's body from the time it left Rome in a Spanish frigate until it arrived at the monastery. It was taken to the El Escorial by helicopter.

French have design for neutron bomb

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Jan 20

A French neutron bomb is in the news again. Mr Jean Bourges, the Defence Minister, confirmed a few days ago what some French experts have been saying for a long time, that if France decided to go in for these weapons the first of them would become operational in under five years.

He hastened to add that no such decision had yet been taken. But the fact remains that research is being carried out by the Atomic Energy Authority, which has made it possible to establish that French formulae for the new weapon are correct.

The Minister's recent statement points to a change in Government thinking on the independent nuclear deterrent.

Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has disposed of any possible French misgivings over Russia's reaction to production of the neutron bomb. The Government also feels there may be something to say for strengthening the French tactical forces, both nuclear and conventional, against such threats to preventing doctrine. It was that the tactical nuclear forces—the Pluton ground-to-ground missile—should act as a tripwire and a warning, prior to unleashing the full weight of nuclear response.

## Dutch synod divided over Rome compromise plan

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Jan 20

The second week of the special synod of the Dutch Catholic Church here opens after the monarch who left Spain in 1941, half a century ago to make way for a republic, received a posthumous 21-gun salute this weekend as his remains arrived home for interment in the ancient monastery-palace of El Escorial.

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## Vatican tests prove 'Murillo' painting a fake

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## OVERSEAS

## Mr Nkomo seen as the unifying politician

From Nicholas Ashford  
Bulawayo, Jan 20

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (formerly Zanu) returned to the heart of Matabeleland today to a welcome as large and even more enthusiastic than when he returned to Salisbury from abroad a week ago.

It was predictable that his supporters should have turned out in such large numbers. Mr Nkomo has traditionally enjoyed the almost undivided support of the Ndebele who inhabit the huge areas of bush and savannah to the north and south of Bulawayo.

What is significant, however, is that he should have waited a week before returning in triumph to what is widely regarded as his "home town" and that he intends to spend only a minimal amount of time in Matabeleland during the election campaign.

The reasons for this are twofold. First, he is confident of winning the majority of Ndebele votes without having to campaign for them; second, he is trying to project himself as a "national leader" and not a sectional or ethnic one.

This means winning over the support of the Shona-speaking majority who tend to regard the one million tough and disciplined Ndebele with a mixture of fear and resentment.

It is wrong to regard Mr Nkomo as being just an Ndebele leader. He is the appropriately named Patriotic Front representative in Matabeleland. "He is the only leader who is really trying to bring the Ndebele and Shonas together. If you look at the party's national executive you will see there are more Shonas than Ndebeles on it."

However much Mr Nkomo may try to project himself as a leader who transcends tribal barriers, there is little doubt that much of the voting in next month's election will take place along ethnic lines, and that the Ndebele will vote solidly for the Patriotic Front.

"The Ndebele are used to a strong unitary tribal system and will vote for whoever they feel represents their interests," Mr Washington Sanyale, a Bulawayo lawyer, says. "I would estimate that 90 per cent of Ndebeles will vote for him. Other Ndebele politicians such as Ernest Bulle (of the UANC), Enos Nkomo (of the ZANU), and Enos Nkomo (of the ZANU), have no real following here. However the important question is, how will the Shonas vote?"

It is estimated that at least half of Bulawayo's black population are Shonas. Many have lived here for years and some have intermarried with Ndebeles. Others, however, are

resentful of the Ndebele who, they feel, are given preference when it comes to employment or housing.

In last April's election most Shonas voted for Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) which took six of the 15 seats in Matabeleland.

The United National Federal Party (UNFP) of Chief Kayira Ndwani won seven seats, partly by posing as a surrogate for Mr Nkomo's Zanu, but also by capturing the votes of Bulawayo's 50,000 whites who regarded the UNFP as the most conservative and least threatening of the black parties taking part. This time the whites will not be voting for black candidates. Two other seats were taken by Rev Nkomo's Zanu (PF) representative who was released from detention by Bishop Muzorewa in December.

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Africans who have observed the Bulawayo political scene

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There seems to be a widespread feeling, both among Shonas and Ndebeles, that Bishop Muzorewa has lost wide-spread support because of his Government's failure to take steps to improve African standards of living. He is seen as having looked after white interests at the expense of blacks.

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## AFGHANISTAN/IRAN

## Taraki and Amin regimes mutilated children and butchered parents to quell Muslim rebellion

## Why the Russian invaders are wearing an air of injured innocence

From Ian Murray  
Islamabad, Jan 20

The Afghan refugees and rebels in Pakistan all seem to have a horror story to tell. This is one of the worst.

A small village just to the north-east of Kabul had offended the communist regime of Mr Nur Mohammed Taraki, He, and his Prime Minister, Hafizullah Amin, decided to make an example of it. One August morning the Afghan army was sent in to destroy it.

While the soldiers started pulling down and burning the houses, 13 children were rounded up and stood in a line in front of their parents. Some of the soldiers then poked out the children's eyes with steel rods. The mutilated children were then slowly strangled to death.

## Ayatollah offers a compromise

Tehran, Jan 20.—The Ayatollah Khomeini, faced by a boycott of Friday's presidential election by minorities living in Iran's border regions, today made a gesture of conciliation towards the Sunni Moslem populations.

An announcement from his office in the holy city of Qom, said the Ayatollah was prepared to see an amendment to the Islamic constitution to allow orthodox Sunnis to have their own courts and tribunals in regions where they predominate over members of the Shia sect.

The decision by Iran's constitutional council of experts to make the form of Islam practiced by the majority Shia sect the state religion, while neglecting Sunni minority rights, has been an issue among the Kurdish, Turkoman and Baluchi minorities.

Package deal: Mr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, said today in Delhi that a "package" formula for the release of the American hostages being held in Iran, would be worked out during his recent visit to Tehran.

## Russians rebuke 'bellicose' President Carter

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 20

The Russians said this week-end that ever since taking office, President Carter had been moving towards a policy of confrontation and force as the decisive argument in world affairs.

A bitterly anti-American article in Pravda, reflecting the views of the Soviet leadership, accused President Carter of striving to impose "bellicose confrontation" on the world, placing American interests against those of other countries, and seeking his own advantage in the disadvantage of others.

Pravda said the keystone of Mr Carter's programme was an unprecedented build-up of military might on which to rely for the settlement of world affairs. References to the growth of Soviet military power were made only for the sake of appearances.

The article reassured that the Russians saved Afghanistan from collapse.

Pravda named two ships, which it said were being built in June from Britain and China loaded with arms. These weapons were taken to Peshawar and distributed to the rebels. The operation was masterminded by a Central Intelligence Agency representative named as Louis Duprix.

## Double glaze in 12 minutes

Yes, that's the claim made by a famous manufacturer for his new sliding system.

Recently this new system was tested against leading DIY brands, with amazing results. The new system took just 12 minutes to double glaze a window and the DIY brand took 24 hours!

The reason is very simple. The new system is not a kit, although you install it yourself (and so save labour costs). Your windows are measured by experts. Then the panels are factory made to measure and delivered ready glaze for you to install. What could be simpler than that? It does not matter if your reveal is out of true; it still fits snugly and the panels glide easily with no extra work or packing.

The name of this manufacturer is Critical Warmite. It does everything good double glazing does, holds in the warmth, reduces draughts and noise (deterring burglars, too), and costs less than kits that leave you less than half the work yourself. Of course, if you think DIY double glazing, even this Critical Warmite, is not a kit, this nationwide installation service will be happy to install it for you.

Find out more about Britain's really speedy low-cost way to double glaze.

Fill in coupon on page 6.

The entire site was an ash-strewn scar.

There are other stories, like the one of 200 men, tied up with their own turban cloths, pushed over, doused in petrol and then incinerated. There seems little reason to doubt from the stories that thousands of Afghans of all ages were dying.

Mr Taraki and Mr Amin, the strong-arm man who toppled him from power in September, had apparently resorted to this type of brutal operation in an attempt to quell the Muslim rebellion that had been steadily spreading ever since Mr Taraki first seized office in April, 1978.

In trying to rule by fear both men clearly totally missed the character of their countrymen. Despite, almost because of, what was going on the revolt spread so far by last autumn that 22 of the country's 28 provinces were effectively in rebel hands.

Mr Amin took over because he believed Mr Taraki was too soft. Refugee stories point to the fact that things became much worse after he came to power. On October 21, with the help

of the 3,000 Soviet "military advisers" and pilots then in the country, he opened a full scale offensive against the rebels.

Helicopter gunships went in and started strafing villages. Napalm bombing was used with devastating effect. Refugees, who until then had only been trickling into Pakistan, started to flood over the border.

But the rebel determination seemed to increase in the face of this assault and it now seems clear that Mr Amin was so universally unpopular and incompetent that he could well be removed before long and replaced by a Muslim inspired regime.

So the Soviet decision to move into Afghanistan was taken.

The hope was that any regime which succeeded in getting rid of the hated Mr Amin would be a popular one. From the start the Russians envisaged the role of their troops as nothing more than a strong logistical backup force while their new puppet leader, Mr Babrak Karmal, consolidated his position.

The Soviet presence seems to have stopped the atrocities which happened under Mr Amin. The horror stories all seem to predate Christmas and there is no recent evidence of Napalm being used against civilians.

The fact that the Soviet invasion has apparently put an end to the worst atrocities of the previous regimes explains in no small measure the air of injured innocence adopted by Kremlin leaders and Russian soldiers alike when they are accused of trampling on a nation's rights.

The Kremlin might really have calculated that it could have fooled the rest of the world into accepting its version of things simply because Soviet troops really were stopping a cruel war against a civilian population.

But if the Kremlin miscalculated the world's reaction it undoubtedly miscalculated the reaction of the Afghan population. Rebel opposition to Mr Amin was generally along traditional clan and tribal lines, although six different groupings had started to emerge.

With the arrival of the Soviet troops all the old tribal differences seem to have been swept under the carpet. The fighting Mujahideen may still retain their old loyalties. But, for the moment, they are seemingly totally united in their determination to throw the last Russian out of their country.

The war is thus continuing. But, with the Russians showing cautious restraint and the rebels wary of taking on armoured gunships with 303 rifles, the action seems to be sporadic and confined to hit-and-run ambushes.

These tactics disrupt communications to some extent, but there is no evidence that the Soviet troops have ever been in real difficulty in securing a road or town if they wanted to. In fact, they are still able to do most of the real fighting for them. This is because these soldiers are deliberately based in a different area to the one where they have their ethnic roots.

Where the Mujahideen are most successful is in the remote

and mountainous areas, and that means most of the country. But these are areas which have never really been effectively controlled from Kabul.

For the moment the real state of the rebellion is almost impossible to assess. The different groups make wildly exaggerated claims of their victories to impress each other.

There are only three obvious outcomes of the war. The first is that the Mujahideen with their ancient rifles will defeat the largest army in the world. Realistically that must be a non-starter. The second is that the largest army in the world will crush a fighting spirit, fired by Islam and financed by anti-Soviet money. Realistically that can only be achieved through genocide.

The only other apparent possibility is a continuation of the present military stalemate in the country, while diplomatic and Islamic pressures are applied to the Soviet Union. Such pressures take time to build up and the Soviet gamble is that as time passes, Mr Karmal will acquire internal and international respectability.

## China says it will support the Afghan struggle

From Hasan Akhtar  
Islamabad, Jan 20

China will support the Afghan struggle against the Soviet intervention and believe the Afghan people will ultimately succeed, Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, told Afghan refugee leaders in a Pakistan camp near Peshawar today.

Mr Huang Hua is the second foreign leader in the past five days to visit the Afghan refugees, whose number in North West Frontier Province may be as high as 445,000.

Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, had also visited the refugee camp near Peshawar last week. However, unlike Lord Carrington, Mr Huang Hua spoke to the Afghan refugees and extended Chinese support in their struggle against the Soviet occupation.

The Chinese minister told his Afghan audience through an interpreter that China stood with the people of Afghanistan as justice was on their side. The free world, he declared, would never allow intervention in Afghanistan to become legitimate.

The Chinese minister, who is in Islamabad for talks with Pakistan's civil and military leaders on Afghanistan developments, said the Soviet Union planned to carry out incursions in the areas adjacent to Afghanistan. That was a great danger not only to the Afghan people but to the security and peace of the whole region.

He and his wife went round the Afghan refugee camp at Azakhel, about 14 miles from Peshawar, expressing sympathy and promising Chinese relief.

Mr Huang Hua was to hold talks with President Ziaul-Haq at Rawalpindi later this evening. At the first meeting of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, with the leaders of the opposition parties today, she was concerned over security in the region.

Members spoke briefly about the Russian intervention in Afghanistan and the supply of American arms to Pakistan. But they avoided mentioning the Russian intervention in the region.

Mrs Gandhi is reported as having rebutted the assertion that India's stand was "pro-Soviet". She said: "We are neither pro-Soviet, nor pro-American. We are only pro-Indian." She told the opposition leaders that India did not want the situation in Afghanistan to escalate "from cold war into a hot war".

The Prime Minister said that one should not talk of foreign intervention in a neighbouring country only from a particular point of time. Intervention by powers other than the Soviet Union could not be lost sight of. When a longer discussion was sought, Mrs Gandhi said, Parliament was the forum for it.

Later, at a banquet for Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Foreign Minister, said that resistance and remaining countries in the region could only aggravate the situation, as past experience had shown. Non-aligned countries could live in peace if there was no interference of outside powers, he said.



East meets West: A mullah taking photographs during prayers at Tehran University.

## Russian troops killed as convoy is ambushed in Afghan mountains

Continued from page 1

"I said to him. The Major did not take his eyes from the road. 'The Afghans are cunning people', he said and then lapsed into silence.

It was quite by chance that The Times found itself riding shotgun for the Red Army. I had set out from Kabul at dawn to take the little bus through the Hindu Kush. I had passed through three road-checks when—more than 100 miles from the capital—a Soviet paratrooper recognized me as a European and asked for my passport.

I was taken off the bus and led to a hut in the snow from which emerged a half-naked captain wearing sunglasses. Captain Viktor from Tashkent showed no animosity when he was told I was a journalist and his men gathered round me, anxious to talk in faltering but by no means poor English. What emerged most strongly was that they were all fascinated by pop music.

Lieutenant Nikolai, also from Tashkent, asked: "Is it true that Paul McCartney of the Beatles has been arrested in Tokyo?" I asked him where he had heard the Beatles' music and two more soldiers replied: "On the 'Voice of America' radio."

The troops were apologetic that they could not allow me to continue on my bus but they promised to see me safely back to Kabul. That is how I found myself on Major Yuri's convoy. Nikolai flagged down a passing Russian truck and put me on board.

The soldier driving the transport lorry offered me oranges from his kit bag as we began to descend the gorge. He asked me in broken English to help him watch the cliffs for tribesmen.

He pulled his rifle from the back of the cab and laid it between us on the seat. You would not talk of road. "Tell if you see people," I said at I was told, as much for my protection as for his.

At the bottom of the pass, we caught up with the soldier's convoy and Major Yuri, his khaki trousers tucked into his heavy army boots, appeared at the window.

"You are English," he said with a smile. "Come to the front with me." So we trekked through the deep snow to the front of the column where a Soviet tank was trying to manoeuvre up the pass in the opposite direction.

"It's a T-62," he said. I thought it prudent not to tell him that I had already recognized the tank's classification. Major Yuri seemed a fine professional soldier of whom President Brezhnev should be proud. He was clearly admired by his men who spoke freely to him in a way that most privates might find impossible in western armies.

In emergency, he was calm and efficient and when dealing with fractious Afghan soldiers, whom he privately seemed to distrust, he was unfailingly courteous and polite.

When five Afghan soldiers turned up beside the convoy to complain that Russian troops had been waving rifles in their direction, Major Yuri spoke to them as an equal, taking off his gloves and shaking each by the hand until they beamed with pleasure. Major Yuri was also a party man.

What, he asked, did I as a journalist think of Mrs Thatcher? I explained that people in Britain held different views about the Prime Minister but that they were permitted to hold these views freely. What

did Major Yuri think about President Brezhnev? "I believe," he said slowly, "that Comrade Brezhnev is a very good man."

Major Yuri was well read. He knew his Tolstoy and admired the music of Shostakovich. But when I asked if he had read Solzhenitsyn, he shook his head and tapped his revolver holster. "That," he said, touching the gun, "is for Solzhenitsyn."

Every few minutes, Major Yuri would pace the road and talk over the radio telephone and when eventually we did move away with our armoured escorts scattered through the column, he seemed unsure of our exact location.

Could he, he asked, borrow my map? It was suddenly apparent that the long convoy, with its cargo of food, ammunition and supplies, did not carry with it a map of Afghanistan.

As we journeyed on into the night, I was gently handed a Kalashnikov rifle with a full clip of ammunition. A soldier snapped off the safety catch and told us to watch through the window.

I had no desire to shoot at Afghan rebels but if we had been attacked I do not doubt that self-preservation would have governed my reactions.

We were still skidding along the main road towards Kabul when I turned to Major Yuri who was sitting on my right.

"Why is the Soviet Army in Afghanistan?" I asked him. Major Yuri remained silent for a long time, a smile playing about his face. "If you read Pravda," he said, "you will find that Comrade Leonid Brezhnev has answered this question." Major Yuri was a party man to the last.

## Crisis may put pressure on Navy

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

Any deepening of the crises affecting Afghanistan, Iran and now Yugoslavia could lead to pressure upon the Royal Navy to advance the deployment of a second task group to the area, at present planned for early May.

The Navy has already switched a frigate squadron, and the assault ship Intrepid to the Mediterranean in response to the developments in Eastern Europe and the Gulf.

The second task group has long been planned under the Navy's programme of regular nine-month deployments east of Suez. It will consist of a County Class guided missile destroyer and four frigates together with supply ships of which are scheduled to exercise in the Indian Ocean and the Far East.

Submarine has been included because nuclear-powered boats are not allowed through the Suez Canal, while conventional diesel-electric submarines could not keep pace with the fast moving surface warships.

Government pressure to bring forward the group's departure could, however, create problems for the Navy, which is hardly in an ideal position these days to cope with the unforeseen.

Sources point out that in a national emergency the Navy could quickly send most of its 100 or so Nato warships and submarines to sea.

But manpower shortages, resulting from the recent period of service discontent over pay and conditions, and frustrating delays in the repair and maintenance programme, are making things hard for senior officers at the fleet's operational headquarters in Northwood, Middlesex.

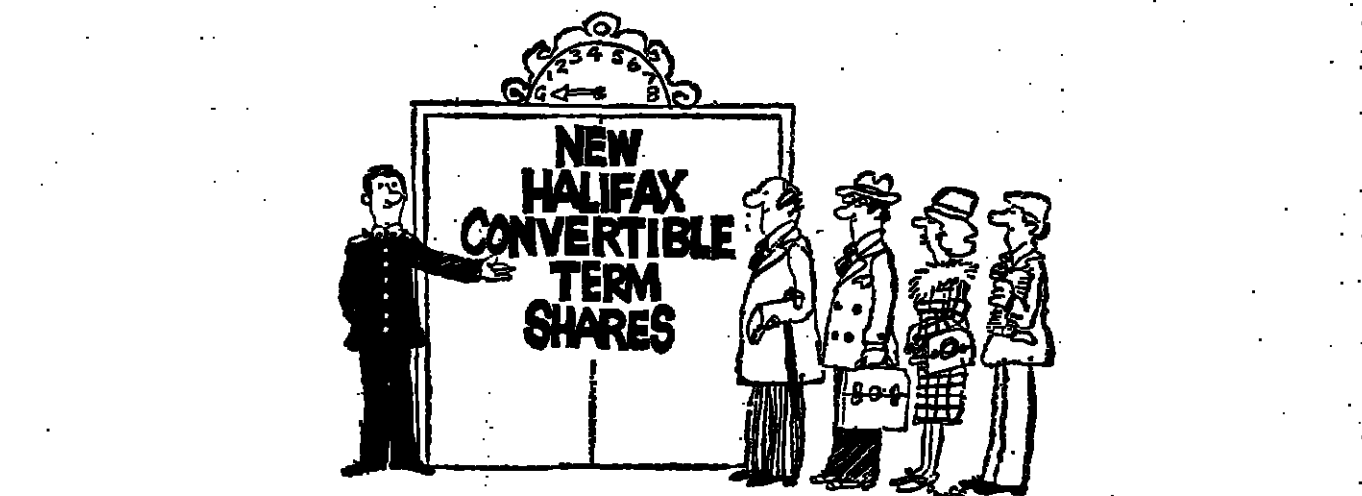
On the one hand the Navy is trying to make life more attractive for its sailors with 200 foreign visits planned for this year compared with only 120 the previous year.

On the other hand it needs to keep about half of its strength on shore in peacetime, partly to maintain training establishments and partly to keep family separation down to an acceptable level.

Any sudden change in plans could upset wives, who have to be assiduously courted by an all-volunteer force, and such changes have already become too common for comfort during the last year. This has been the fault, not so much, of Ayatollah Khomeini as of strained relations in naval dockyards. Disputes over pay and steady defections by skilled workers to private industry have led to the Navy's refitting schedules falling badly behind schedule.

A senior officer said that the situation was still "extremely serious" with the nuclear-powered attack submarine Swiftsure still in Devonport awaiting its refit for nearly a year, and even Retown, one of the Navy's four-bout Polar force, delayed by six weeks at Rosyth—the first time that the efficiency of Britain's strategic deterrent has been so affected.

Moreover, five frigates, as announced last June, have had to be placed in the Navy's standby squadron because of manpower shortages.



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## OVERSEAS

## Candidates and press gather to see Iowa winnow out the weak

From Patrick Brogan  
Grinnell, Iowa, Jan 20

Iowa has now replaced New Hampshire as the state where the first cuckoo of an American election year may be heard. Democrats and Republicans will gather in 5,062 precincts throughout the state tomorrow evening and begin the business of choosing delegates to state party conventions.

In the process they will indicate, perhaps clearly, who they think should be sworn in as president a year from now. If there is a clear winner on either side, he will stand a much better chance of winning his party's nomination.

This was the role that New Hampshire used to play. The weak were winnowed out. Candidates who did badly began the rapid slide to oblivion. The winners went on to victory.

Last time, of course, the Democratic victor was Jimmy Carter. He was in Iowa, practically by stealth, while no one was looking and the momentum he picked up took him to the White House.

This time all the candidates are here, all except Mr Carter, who is minding the shop in Washington.

They have bled the state with their sons and mothers, their sisters, cousins and aunts. In their wake has come a regiment of reporters and several armoured divisions of television technicians.

The people here have had ample opportunity to judge between the candidates. They enjoy it, no doubt about that. The pleasure of being the nation's cynosure, which reconciled New Hampshire to the caucuses of other seasons, works as well in the Mid-West.

They might even turn out to vote tomorrow night. Four years ago, less than 10 per cent of Democrats and barely 5 per cent of Republicans attended the caucuses. This time the figures will be much higher.

A few predictions are already possible. Senator Robert Dole's presidential campaign is going to end here. He was the Republican nominee for the vice presidency in 1976. He seems to have failed completely here and had better concentrate on saving his Senate seat in Kansas.

Until a week ago he practically ignored Iowa, taking it for granted that he would win, and knowing that the Iowa caucuses will not select any delegates to the national convention anyway. He stayed above the battle, while the others were down in the arena, building up organizations and addressing the faithful, or potentially faithful, across the state.

Worst of all, he skipped a televised debate between Republican candidates which was held three weeks ago. Iowans felt that they were being ignored and resented it. It is also possible that as polling day approaches, the idea of voting for a man who will be 69 next month appears less appealing.

The middle-of-the-road Republican candidates, Senator Baker

and Mr Bush, have picked up the votes shed by Mr Reagan to their right.

Mr Connally, despite an immense effort of personal campaigning in the past two weeks, does not seem to have succeeded in overcoming his reputation for shooting from the hip. Mid-Westerners believe that their president should stop to think before blasting away at his opponents.

Mr Bush has worked hardest in Iowa, visiting it repeatedly over the past two years, building up an organization and preaching his mild doctrine of conservatism and proven competence to every town and village in the state.

Senator Baker left his campaign until practically the last minute, and has no organization worthy of the name. If he does well it will be thanks to his personal efforts, and to support from Mr Robert Ray, the Republican Governor.

Mr Baker came to Grinnell on Friday evening, and had the largest turnout for Republicans that anyone could remember. He has been campaigning ceaselessly since before Christmas, and looked fit, relaxed and happy.

He conducts his meetings in the old Southern style (he comes from Tennessee, telling well-practised jokes and anecdotes to cheer everyone up before making his pitch).

Mr Philip Crane, on the far right of the Republican Party, and Mr Jerry Brown, on the far west of the Democratic Party, will do badly. Mr Crane might survive as the Republican right-hand man if Mr Ronald Reagan drops out soon, but not otherwise.

Mr Brown has instructed his followers, if any, to vote for "uncommitted" delegates. Delegates are shared out proportionally among those Democratic candidates who get more than 15 per cent of the vote, so Mr Brown's decision is an admission of defeat. He swears that he will live to fight another day.

Mr John Anderson, the most liberal of the Republican candidates, has not campaigned here, and will make his big push to New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

That leaves, on the Democratic side, President Carter and Senator Edward Kennedy and on the Republican side, Senator Howard Baker, Mr George Bush, Mr John Connally and Mr Reagan. Mr Carter is going to win the Democratic vote, but Mr Kennedy will not be eliminated.

There is now a really good chance that Mr Reagan might be beaten. He lived in Iowa before moving to film and fortune in California. At Christmas the polls gave him over 50 per cent of the Republican vote. Ten days ago he had lost half of that.

The feeling now is that Mr Reagan, Mr Baker and Mr Bush are now all bunched together, and if Mr Reagan is forced into second place, his campaign may never recover.



























ORC

An extremely high poll supports the law now going through Parliament to ban secondary picketing

# A sweeping disapproval of flying pickets

The general public, trade union members—and even active trade union members—strongly disapprove of the flying picket tactics currently being used by the British Steel strikers.

An astonishingly high 86 per cent of all adults believe the new law going through Parliament should make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work. This view is shared by a majority of workers and trade unionists:

Non-union members	90 per cent
Union members	79 per cent
Active union members	70 per cent

These facts emerge in a special poll of attitudes to trade union reform carried out for *The Times* by Opinion Research and Communication.

The findings were not affected by recent publicity on pickets clashing with the police since the fieldwork was done before the picketing problems began to emerge in the BSC strike.

The survey shows that public hostility to the power of trade unions has not abated since the general election.

Public opinion is still strongly behind the Government's plans to bring in legislation designed to curb some union powers.

The first questions asked confirmed that most people now believe unions are too powerful and that steps should be taken to reduce that power. The general feeling, too, is that the unions should accept the reforms.

Q: Some people feel that British trade unions have too much power and show too little responsibility. Do you think this is true or not true?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
True	78	83	68	56
Not true	16	11	27	38
Don't know	6	6	5	5

Q: The Government is planning to bring in a law shortly which will reduce trade union power in certain ways. Are you in favour of this or not in favour?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	73	71	51	45
Not in favour	23	14	31	44
Don't know	7	8	8	11

Q: Do you think that the unions should accept this new law cutting their powers, or do you think that they should fight it?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
Should accept new law	72	76	56	39
Should fight it	22	16	35	50
Don't know	6	8	9	11

The arguments on productivity and the need for wage increases to be keyed to an increase in productivity appear to be getting across. A



An angry coal lorry driver confronts miners' strike pickets at Dover.

majority of the public at any rate seem to attach quite a lot of blame to the unions for the national problems of low productivity.

Q: How much do you think the trade unions are to blame for the country's problems of low productivity?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
A great deal	34	38	24	19
Quite a lot	25	27	22	18
A certain amount	25	23	28	34
Not much	7	6	10	12
Not at all	7	4	14	17
Don't know	2	2	2	2

However, high unemployment is not laid at the door of the unions to such a great extent—though four out of ten think a great deal or quite a lot of blame can be placed on the unions.

Q: How much do you think the trade unions are to blame for the country's problems of high unemployment?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
A great deal	21	24	15	10
Quite a lot	21	24	15	11
A certain amount	26	26	25	24
Not much	15	13	20	26
Not at all	13	8	23	26
Don't know	4	5	2	3

A good majority is in favour of tackling both the closed shop and picketing.

Q: Two of the subjects to be tackled by the new law will be the closed shop and rules

about picketing during an industrial dispute. Are you in favour or not in favour of the new law changing the present rules which cover...

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	64	66	59	55
Not in favour	22	18	32	38
Don't know	14	16	9	6

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	72	76	67	66
Not in favour	18	14	27	29
Don't know	10	11	6	5

Q: Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion on the closed shop?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
The closed shop is a bad thing and should be abolished completely	37	41	29	21
The closed shop should only be allowed where the great majority of workers vote for having it	46	41	53	60
All large companies should operate a closed shop	11	13	16	19
Don't know	6	6	6	6

The figure in favour of limiting the activities of pickets is the highest in the entire survey—and among the highest recorded in surveys of opinion about industrial relations matters. There can be no doubt about the strength of feeling on this issue.

Q: The new law will make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work. Do you agree with this, or do you think that in a dispute workers should be able to put pickets in other places as well?

	All	Non TU mem- bers	TU mem- bers	Active TU mem- bers
Limit picketing to place of work	86	90	79	70
Put pickets in other places	8	6	17	27
Don't know	6	4	4	3

It is interesting that trade union activists are also in favour, by a substantial majority, of limiting picketing activities.

The public view is also clear on the subject of sympathy strikes and blacking. Seven out of ten reject the idea that they are a legitimate weapon in an industrial dispute and believe that the new law should restrict their use.

Q: Another area where the Government might act is on sympathy strikes or "blacking"—for example where the dockers help the miners' strike by refusing to move coal. Do you think sympathy strikes and blacking are legitimate weapons to use in an industrial dispute, or should the new law restrict their use?

	All	Non TU mem- bers	TU mem- bers	Active TU mem- bers
New law should restrict their use	71	78	62	48
Legitimate weapon in industrial disputes	19	14	31	48
Don't know	10	10	7	6

In this instance one in two trade union activists feel that sympathy strikes are legitimate weapons to be used in a dispute situation.

The survey looked at two other controversial issues—the so-called "funding of strikes" by state benefits and the issue of tackling those who misuse the state benefit system.

Q: Which of these statements is closest to your own opinion?

	All	Con	Lab	Lib	Others
Strikers' families should get social security benefits from the State	19	5	34	13	20
Strikers' families should only get social security benefits when union funds are exhausted	27	26	24	32	24
Strikers' families should not get social security benefits—but the money should be paid back when the strike is over	19	26	12	19	19
Strikers' families should get social security benefits—but the money should be paid back when the strike is over	31	37	26	34	26
None of these	2	3	0	1	4
Don't know	2	1	4	1	4

There is clearly no consensus on handling this thorny problem and views are so widely

split that any action on it would be bound to be controversial. So far as "scrumpers" who abuse the Social Security benefit system are concerned there is a lot of anger. Three quarters of the entire sample thought that the system was 'misused' and only two out of 10 thought it was treated responsibly.

However, public opinion is strongly against tackling this misuse by taxing unemployment benefits, as has been considered.

Q: Some people believe that there is a lot of misuse of Social Security benefits, while they are earning money. Others believe that, by and large, people treat the Social Security system responsibly. Do you think...

	All	Men	Women	Con	Lab	Lib	Others
The system is misused	76	70	81	81	71	72	72
Not people treat it responsibly	19	24	15	14	24	17	18
Don't know	5	6	4	5	5	4	9

Q: One way to penalise people who cheat the system, which is being considered by the Government, is to tax unemployment benefits. However this would also hurt the genuinely unemployed. Would you be in favour or not in favour of taxing unemployment benefits?

	All	Men	Women	Con	Lab	Lib	Others
In favour	29	27	31	35	28	25	25
Not in favour	69	68	66	62	65	68	66
Don't know	12	10	13	13	10	8	10

Finally, two other areas which find strong public support are for a secret ballot before a strike, which is supported by eight out of ten people, and that trade union leaders and officials should be elected by secret ballot. The latter is supported by three quarters of the sample.

	All	Men	Women	Con	Lab	Lib	Others
Trade union leaders should and officials should be elected by secret ballot	79	72	81	81	71	72	72
Agree	21	22	19	18	22	22	22
Disagree	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

	All	Men	Women	Con	Lab	Lib	Others
There should be a secret ballot of all workers before a strike is called	85	85	87	88	83	83	83
Agree	10	11	9	13	13	13	13
Disagree	5	4	4	4	4	4	4

Note: The fieldwork for the survey was carried out between January 4 and 6 with a representative national quota sample of 1,039 electors. The sample was designed and the fieldwork carried out by Opinion Research Centre in 100 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales.

\* All figures in the tables are percentages.

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A dissident group's letter from Prague on the Moscow Olympics

## Why Hitler's insult must not be repeated

Perhaps everything will already have been said by the time you read this letter. Maybe the idea of an international boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow will by that time be a firm appeal or perhaps it will still be a mere threat. Maybe Kabul, reminding us of Prague in August, 1968, will still be a trauma very much alive or maybe it will have become a gradually dimmed bitter pill. Maybe everything will already have been decided—and yet we would like to state our point of view.

A boycott of the summer Olympic Games... An athlete who has been preparing for his top performance for many years can feel such a decision as a blow to his life-long ambition. Perhaps he will never have another opportunity.

Once before, in the middle of the 1930s, the world faced a similar decision. A handful of over-sensitive democrats accompanied by a not very constructive left wing rejected Berlin as the venue of the Olympic Games. But wise counsel, the idea of pure sport free from the adverse influence of politics, strong faith in the good example of democracy, triumphed. The Olympic flag was hoisted, and blended with the swastika. Germany became the major country in the world for a number of glorious days.

A Germany of magnificent

sports grounds, a Germany without strikes and unemployment, perhaps somewhat militaristic and eccentric in its Nuremberg race laws but also of the violation of law and order so characteristic of the freer world. The moral boost which Hitler Germany received by the organization of the games drowned the warning voices for a long time to come. Whether motivated by good will or complacency—it was one of many errors for which the world had to pay a heavy price. No one has any doubts that Moscow will be an impressive host of the summer Olympic Games. The stadium will be completed, the hotels ready, there will be plenty of food not only in Moscow but also in Kiev and Tallin. There will not be a single demonstration and no delegation need fear a terrorist attack. The first socialist state in the world will gain fresh international recognition as the champion of the lofty idea of peace and friendship. The Olympic flag at the Berlin stadium was an insult of thousands. The same flag at the Moscow stadium will be an insult of millions.

The Soviet intervention in Kabul, deprived of shabby justifications, is an outright and outrageous aggression. It is not a fortuitous deviation from good manners but a manifest component of the dragon seed.

Today we can merely guess its continuation but dread its ultimate objectives. If the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan is merely condemned by words it will, against our will, become the norm to be repeated on future suitable occasions. If we reprimand the aggressor but at the same time allow him to hold the games we shall confirm our impotence in his eyes.

You are rightly asking who we are and where our responsibility lies for such a significant international act. We live in Prague, the city where Mr Babrak Karmal, the brand-new Afghan premier and general secretary, was greeted, bought and trained. We are in opposition to our Government and to the government of our Government, but we are not in opposition to our people. The overwhelming majority of our people share our views. The only difference between them and us is that we do not conceal our views. That is why we have been deprived of the fundamental human joys—to do the kind of work which would give us more than just our livelihood. Our children are branded with the mark of unreliability. At times we are interrogated, vilified or imprisoned. Many consider the price we pay for the feeling of a little freedom and clear conscience excessively high.

As long as international developments proceed under the cloak of détente, as long as modern western technology and grain from overseas pour into the countries of the Soviet block our position is likely to remain unchanged. The moment the western states say "enough" our position will be evitable. Instead of shadowing us they will arrest us instead of arresting us they will even kill us. The same goes for our Polish and Hungarian friends whose regimes today show greater restraint. Any objection that this is impossible in Europe in 1980 is a cheap and empty illusion.

So it is in our vital interest to continue and intensify co-operation between countries and not exacerbate international relations. Moscow's angry reaction would be felt above all within the orbit of its power. It would not affect the French, the Dutch, the Americans or the British but us. And yet we maintain that the democracies should not send their athletes to the summer Olympic Games in Moscow.

We are aware of the feelings of sportsmen and of the declarations of representatives of the international Olympic movement. We would be happy to live in a world where sports could be separated from politics. But we do not live in such a world. Every athlete

from the eastern block countries who goes to compete at the games is a professional in the full sense of the word. He is a state investment with the sole objective of increasing the international prestige of his state. A young person who expresses a view different from state doctrine will never reach the centre of top sports performance.

In the Soviet concept the Olympic Games are above all a political matter as well as an opportunity of gaining hard currency. And what is more, the subjected countries of the Soviet block have to contribute a set sum to cover the cost of the games.

In our view the idea of separating sports and politics is a cruel misunderstanding. If we bring it to its logical conclusion the next Olympics will be held anywhere, in South Africa or in Vietnam.

Prompt moral sanctions—the most moderate of all sanctions—have a greater value than a host of declarations. They will prevent the aggressor from donning a halo of peace, they embody the hope of averting dangerous future developments. It would be better to change the city of the Olympics even at the last moment than to have a war in the year of the Olympics.

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New words and new meanings: an occasional series

## Have pity for the poor Byzantine

Loose modern rhetoric tarnishes Byzantium the golden, the custodian of our western heritage for 10 centuries. To describe some activity, usually political, as Byzantine has come to be a popular insult. It means that it is unduly intricate and inflexible, and has other similarly unfavourable characteristics.

For example: "Only in the Byzantine world of mineworkers' politics would a wage claim knocking on 65 per cent be labelled a victory for moderation!" Pity the poor Byzantines! They have joined the Welsh, the Jews, the Tartars, the Jesuits, and the Turks in having their name abused by the careless as an insult. And there are no Byzantines left to protect their ethnic sensibilities.

Now it is true that only a cursory reading of Gibbon or St. Severus Eusebius is needed to come to the conclusion that Byzantine politics were at times complicated. The curious reader has to keep his wits sharp to distinguish between his Comenian and his Palaeologian family. The imperial line stretched out across the early Middle Ages to the crack of doom made by the Turkish cannon. It is a millennium rich with complication, particularly that most complicated of simplicities, religious enthusiasm.

But for our generation to suppose that the distinguishing feature of Byzantium was the complexity of its politics is as one-eyed a view of history as

to suppose that Rome declined and fell because of sexual promiscuity, or that English is simply a synonym for industrial anarchy and idleness. It was not a mistake made by Mohammad II, the young man whose janizaries finally sacked Constantinople, with the last Christian emperor standing in the breach, abandoned by his western allies, holding the infidel at bay until their numbers overpowered him and he died, with the empire as his winding sheet.

It was not a mistake made by Henry James, that master of linguistic nuance. In *The Wings of the Dove* Miss Theale indulges in a long and typically Jamesian interior monologue on the pleasures of being metaphorically Byzantine. I think she means by Byzantine romantic, and formal, and rich, and rare. But this passage is

James in opaque mood: In Heaven there'll be no algebra.

No learning dates or names, But only playing golden harps And reading Henry James. The EEC and Wagesgate were partly responsible for the shorthand use of *Byzantine* to mean complicated and bring. When Mr Ted Heath was earning the sobriquet of Groucher by his meticulous report on tariffs, it became a commonplace of political journalism to refer to the government's *Byzantine* approach to the European Economic Community. It is still a popular metaphor for the gobs of pounds, makes and other boring jargon of EuroBabel.

Mr Richard Nixon's presidency provided frequent opportunities for the new use of *Byzantine*. In fact a better analogy was with the secret and sinister government of Stalinsk, with the White House coming to resemble the Yiddi Kiosk, where the Ottoman Emperor, Abdul the Damned, made a virtual prisoner of himself.

Our new vogue use of *Byzantine* to mean complex and Machiavellian ignores the great debt that our civilization and culture owe to our link to the ancient world. It is a unfair as the notion that all Jesuits dissemble or that all Welsh refuse to pay their gambling debts. And it will be as little good to protest about it.

Philip Howard

## IOWA DIARY

In the old days the New Hampshire primary was the season-opener in a presidential election year. It was held in March and the candidate and journalists would complain routinely about having to trudge through the snows, though their complaints would be softened by the knowledge that spring was not far behind.

In every election since the Sixties, the starting date has been pushed back further into winter, in response to some unarticulated and probably quite imaginary public demand to see America's potential leaders jump through more and more hoops.

As other states held early primaries, New Hampshire had to switch to a February date to keep its position as the first. Then came a resuscitation of the precinct caucuses, a more elaborate way of choosing Convention delegates which had for some time been falling out of favour.

President (as he then was) Carter is credited with the discovery of the January Iowa caucuses in 1976. Because he used them to launch his successful campaign for the presidency, all the candidates are this year seeking to emulate him.

The result is that the campaigning season starts just after Christmas—or earlier if you count the inconclusive Florida straw polls in December. And among the many qualities now required of a candidate is an ability to negotiate the hazards of midwinter travel in the Midwest.

When I arrived in Iowa last week the temperature was hovering near zero Fahrenheit and a piercing wind was gusting to 40 miles an hour. Radio announcers gleefully told us that this meant a wind chill factor of something like minus 60 degrees—a ridiculous calculation but one which appeared to give them pleasure.

The 100-mile drive from Waterloo to Mason City afforded some spectacular moments, particularly when the road crossed rivers and lakes frozen over, fringed with bare trees bending in the wind. Snow from the fields blew over the road like icing sugar and not a soul was out of doors. On the car radio, the country and western music was interrupted by advertisements for the candidates. Senator Edward Kennedy was the first I heard, a gruesome and topical account of how some old people had to wrap themselves in

newspapers to keep themselves warm and how something should be done about it.

It is impossible to quarrel with that sentiment, or indeed with almost anything said by the candidates in their speeches or advertisements. Most were along the lines of: "Let's bring back the America that was something special in this world." I copied that down from a speech by Senator Howard Baker, a Republican, but it could have been almost anyone.

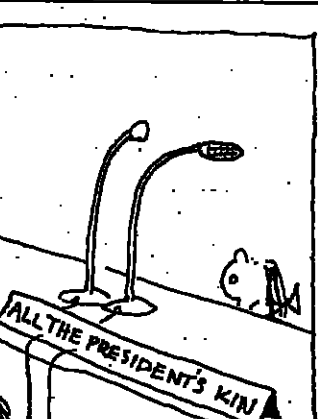
Mr Kennedy's version was: "We can do better to bring about a restoration of the prestige of the United States." (I am unsure whether the dynastic overtones of the word "restoration", recalling Charles II, were deliberate.)

Additionally, he urged the voters to "send a message that the people of Iowa believe that the American dream is alive and well". Neither he nor any other candidate offered details of how the dream could be fulfilled, save through firm and dynamic leadership of the brand only they could provide. Although Mr Kennedy gets surprisingly mumble-mouthed at impromptu question-and-answer sessions, he has an impressively forceful style when speaking from a prepared script. He was positively electric during a meeting in Waterloo the other night when he shared the platform with Governor Jerry Brown of California, a distant rival, and Vice-President Walter Mondale, standing in for Mr Carter.

Mr Kennedy adopted a hectoring tone which was all the more effective because the sound system had been set too loud with the result that his highest notes menaced the eardrums. He began by flamboyantly presenting Mr Mondale with a football shirt emblazoned with the number 2—seeming him for being a deputy.

As the cameras clicked Mr Brown, who felt justifiably that he was being squeezed out of the picture, stood up and inserted himself within camera range between the two. Mr Kennedy showed that he knew as many of these old tricks as the Californian by holding the shirt higher and obliterating Mr Brown's face.

Mr Brown tries hard to get into the spirit of these occasions but he is sullen and brooding by nature and does not hide it well. He looked less than comfortable throughout and glowered angrily when the



chairman of the meeting made the inevitable joke about his well-publicized relationship with Miss Linda Ronstadt, a singer. The California Governor sticks to his frugal principles across the state in a chartered jet from Washington. Mr Brown came on a scheduled flight and then chartered a small plane with propellers for his local journeys. The point must be made

though, that he has fewer appointments than Mr Kennedy, who has to take along not only his posse of journalists (who complain about being overcharged for the trips) and security people, but also members of his family.

His wife, Joan, was with him for a few days, to be replaced later by his 19-year-old daughter, Kara, and his son, Patrick, who is 12. At the end of every public meeting Mr Kennedy shakes hands with as many members of the audience as his schedule will allow and at the Mason City meeting Kara and Patrick stood in the receiving line with him, stoically pumping and smiling pleasantly for all of 20 minutes.

Yet none of the candidates can match President Carter when it comes to family. During his self-devolving absence from the fray, allowing him to stay in Washington to see that the international crises do not boil over, he has sent his wife, mother, sister and son to campaign for him as well as his vice-president and members of his cabinet. Only brother Billy has been left out.

There is one significant difference between campaigning in these primaries and caucuses and campaigning in a real elec-

tion. While in the later each candidate loudly proclaims his confidence that he will win, in these early contests the technique is to say you expect to do this because commentators measure the results against expectations. The moral victor is not the one who gets the most votes but the one who does better than anyone thought he would (eg, Senator George McGovern's showing against Senator Edmund Muskie in New Hampshire in 1972).

Thus if any Republican gets within 10 per cent of the front-running Mr Ronald Reagan, that will be seen as a defeat for Mr Reagan, who might then soon retire from the fray. Equally if Mr Carter gets less than half the Democratic votes, he will be damaged.

That is why Mr Carter's supporters in Iowa are urging everyone not to forget that the grain embargo will hurt him with farmers. Mr Kennedy's people counter with the argument that a President in office is hard to fight at times of crisis. Senator Howard Baker urges us to disregard the Iowa opinion poll which put him second to Mr Reagan with an impressive 18 per cent of the votes. He does not expect, he says, to do as well.

One factor which might hurt Mr Kennedy in rural states is his advocacy of control of handgun guns. He has had to write letters to Iowa gun enthusiasts explaining that his proposals cover only small guns and would not inhibit the historic American freedom to buy long sporting guns and fire them off at anything that moves.

If he is lucky, Iowa sportsmen will find themselves too caught up in another contest to bother with tonight's caucuses. The dispute is between the coyote hunters of Iowa, who use guns, and those of neighbouring Minnesota, who cross the state border to hunt coyotes with packs of dogs, mixtures of greyhounds and wolfhounds. Tempers are running high, and a third party to the dispute are those who do not like to see coyotes killed at all. Mr Don Pridge, the state conservation officer, took a neutral view.

You either like a coyote or you don't," he told the Des Moines Register. The same goes for presidential candidates. And those whom towns do not like could easily in a political sense, suffer the fate of the coyotes.

Michael Leapman





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## YUGOSLAVIA AFTER TITO

President Tito has survived many things, including now the amputation of his left leg. But the operation must be a severe shock to the system of an eighty-seven-year-old man, even such a robust one. It would clearly be folly to assume that he will make either a quick or a complete recovery. Let us wish him both, but he will hardly blame us for examining now the implications of his death or prolonged incapacity.

Anxiety naturally focuses on Soviet intentions, especially in the light of the invasion of Afghanistan, but also of other intrusions closer in space if more distant in time. Yugoslavia is a communist state—in Soviet language—a conquest of socialism—even if, from Moscow's point of view, an unorthodox and awkward one. According to the Brezhnev doctrine the Soviet Union therefore has the right and the duty to save it from itself by military action if necessary, should it show signs of backsliding into the clutches of capitalism. Under Marshal Tito it has already shown many such signs, according to the Soviet sign manual: open borders, a convertible currency, imports of "capitalist" newspapers and books, a highly decentralized economy allowing even a degree of foreign capitalist investment. In these respects it has gone way beyond what Hungary had a chance to do in 1956 or Czechoslovakia in 1968. The main differences are that in Yugoslavia there has never been any serious doubt about the ability of the Communist Party to maintain overall control, and that in

Yugoslavia there can be no doubt at all that Soviet intervention would encounter serious military resistance. How far have these two all-important differences depended on President Tito's personality? In 1948 both probably did to a very considerable extent. The communists held power not by popular vote but as the fruit of military victory. The communists believed in what that of the Soviet Union; they belonged to a movement of which Stalin was until then the undisputed international leader. But Tito was equally indisputably their national leader. Only he, as the communist leader who had triumphed over the Nazi invader (as well as over the rival resistance force of Mihajlovic), had the authority to lead a communist Yugoslavia in resistance to Stalin's bullying.

Most of his efforts since then have clearly been directed at enabling both the Communist Party and Yugoslavia as a whole to stand on their own feet. He has encouraged, if not invented, a new brand of communism, allowing a greater freedom of economic choice at all levels than the conventional sort, and has made this brand of communism a national achievement of which all Yugoslavs can feel proud. He has taken enormous trouble to contain, without exacerbating, the differences between the nations of which Yugoslavia is composed, and to check any incipient rivalry between his subordinates and potential successors. He has sought, in short, to build a political system held together by its own logic.

How far he has succeeded, only the test of his absence will definitively show. There are still those, like the twice-imprisoned writer Mihajlo Mihajlov, who predict that without him his successors will be unable to maintain control and that before long one or other group of them will turn to Moscow for support. But on the whole those observers who know Yugoslavia best are the least anxious, the most confident that unity will prevail for the simple reason that almost all Yugoslavs know that in unity lies their only hope of survival. The elaborate rotating system of leadership devised by Tito may not last, they concede, but the essence of a federation based on equality and a communism tempered by non-alignment without and relative freedom within now reposes on a consensus too strong to crack. (And certainly nothing would solder any cracks more rapidly than a clumsy or premature Soviet attempt to exploit them.)

We have to hope that that is right, and be careful to do nothing to make it wrong. It should be absolutely clear that the West respects and values Yugoslavia's non-alignment, and harbours not the slightest fantasy of reclaiming her for capitalism or encircling her into an alliance. On the basis that can and should be equally clear that any interference with Yugoslavia's non-alignment or her political system from the Soviet side, and a fortiori any military incursion into her territory, on the pretext of whatever real or alleged "invitation", would affect the whole security and balance of Europe in a way that the West could not possibly accept.

## Civil defence precautions

From Mr David Sneath

Sir, Recent events on the world scene have brought the possibility of war closer. Yet the public is largely ignorant of the means of self-protection and the authorities ill-equipped to help the public to survive.

There are, I suggest, two failures in official thinking. First, that Britain will, with the rest of Europe, enjoy the luxury of a "transition-to-war" phase in which to re-establish the means of civil defence. Secondly, that a programme designed to educate the public in the realities of nuclear and wide-scale conventional war will induce unnecessary panic at a time when the risk of war is remote.

That our potential enemies will allow the West the sort of time to prepare for war is naive. It is a truism that surprise attack on an unprepared enemy is likely to achieve the best result. Nuclear war is awful to contemplate; yet nuclear weapons are merely means of inflicting death and destruction, two things ordinary people contemplate from time to time when considering, for example, insuring their lives, their houses or their cars.

Civil defence should therefore be regarded as a form of insurance for which a reasonable premium must be paid. The premium involves education, organization and equipment. Now is the time to release to every household in the land the booklet *Protect and Survive*, depicted in your article of January 16. Now is the time for the community to become involved in local defence planning at parish level.

For example, parish and town councils could set up emergency committees to liaise with the county emergency planning officer and to produce local emergency plans. Further, more thought should be devoted to protecting the urban and suburban population by adapting existing and proposed buildings to use as shelters.

Whilst a "shelter policy" of the sort adopted by Sweden and Switzerland is beyond our resources, to abandon a substantial part of the population to its fate is irresponsible and will induce the panic and chaos feared of peacetime education.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID SNEATH,  
Stanton Cottage,  
Private Road,  
Soudwell,  
Nottinghamshire.  
January 18.

## Boycotting the Olympics

From Sir William Hayter

Sir, In the autumn of 1956 the Sadler's Wells Ballet, as it then was, was preparing for its first visit to Moscow when the Russians invaded Hungary. I was then British Ambassador in Moscow, and I telegraphed to London saying I thought the ballet visit ought to be cancelled, which it was.

After I got back to London I saw some dancing on the television, and I was angry with me over the cancellation; they had been preparing for the visit for months, were disappointed, and said: "We're dancers; nothing to do with politics." When I explained to them that they would have been dancing on the grave of Hungary they saw the point, and agreed.

Let us hope that British athletes will have as much good sense, and as much patriotism, as British dancers. Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM HAYTER,  
Sadler's Wells,  
Stanton St John,  
Oxford.  
January 18.

## Researching pornography

From Mr N. March Hunnington

Sir, Mrs Whitehouse (January 8) may find the views of Mr Berl Kutchinsky, the Danish criminologist, on your readers' that the Danish Government does not. The Criminal Law Committee, which was asked last September to examine and comment on the Government's proposal to criminalize child pornography, immediately considered a report on the subject from Mr Kutchinsky; and that, together with the Committee's report, form the bulk of the explanatory material attached to the text of the Bill when it was submitted to the Danish Parliament just before Christmas.

Of course, as every lawyer knows, no expert, however scholarly, should ever be taken on trust, particularly in such a vague and controversial area as the effect on (sex) crimes of the distribution of hard core pornography. It is therefore significant that the Williams Committee devoted the whole of its section on the criminological consequences of child pornography to a sharp and judicious testing of Mr Kutchinsky's research conclusions. No one who reads those pages could possibly believe that the Williams Committee overlooked anything. It quite clearly made up its own mind on the evidence before it.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGTON,  
Editor, Common Market Law Reports,  
European Law Centre Limited,  
4 Bloomsbury Square, W.C1.  
January 9.

## Increases in the price of gas

From Mr Jeremy Mitchell

Sir, If the arguments employed by your leader writer (January 16) to justify the massive increases in the price of gas were taken to their logical conclusion, we would have rail fares increased still further—on the grounds that as people continue to crowd into trains the fares are obviously still too low—and mortgage interest and council house rents pushed up even higher, on the grounds that they must be too low, since there is no demand for them. Fuel, like housing, transport and food, is essential.

There is more than one view on whether gas and electricity prices should be parallel. There are those who argue that competition between two nationalized fuel industries is a thing to be avoided. Against this, of course, has to be set the inescapable fact that precious energy resources are diminishing, even if Britain is luckier than many others in its wealth of energy, and that in the long term prices must rise to discourage wasteful use.

It is vital therefore to phase in price increases gradually, to give consumers time to adapt to them and plan their budgets accordingly. Rises should be accompanied by a determined policy of energy conservation by the Government, with far more cash help, for instance, for insulating homes, more research into alternative sources of energy and more encouragement for the development of energy saving appliances. Such an energy policy costs money. The obvious sources to draw on are the huge surpluses that the already profitable gas and electricity industries will be making.

It is callous in the extreme to impose massive price increases and expect consumers just to switch off and shiver. Already there is plenty of evidence that the poorest households are living in homes that are not just intolerably cold, but sometimes dangerously so.

The Government has chosen, with its new housing allowance scheme, to concentrate help on fewer households than ever before. Admittedly these are the ones most at risk—pensioners over 75 and families on supplementary benefit or family income supplement with children under five—and of course these families will get a bigger allowance than in the past. But most of those who had help under the old electricity discount scheme, which in the National Consumer Council's view was not so well thought out, get no help under the new one.

Next winter the old and the cold will suffer severe hardship, even worse than this year's, unless the Government faces up to its responsibility to use some of the enormous fuel profits on helping the very

people who are producing them, by being forced to pay higher prices.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY MITCHELL,  
Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

## Impact of the steel dispute

From Mr Roy Grantham

Sir, If the steel dispute continues we shall soon see its impact on the engineering and associated industries with the consequence of lost exports and increased imports. Experience shows that once export markets are lost, or distributors turn to imports to supply the home market, the results are felt not for months but for years. Already employers in a number of major companies are expressing their grave concern at the future of their organization and their ability in future to compete in home and export markets.

Apart from the problems within the steel industry, such as the failure to invest under private enterprise, the division of investment by the Macmillan Government, the late investment in the new plant when inflation was high, the general economic policy of the Government has a marked effect upon steel and all other manufacturing industries competing in home and export markets. The Finance Director of RHP Beating stated in *Financial Weekly*:

"...and several other industrialists, which is a very high rate for too high. If the policy of keeping the pound strong does not work out we could be heading for disaster in two to three years. Our exchange rate is ludicrous; you have to be operating in an area with a strong competitive edge to match prices and prices against importing competitors."

That value of the pound at 15 to 20 per cent above its true level, were we not an oil-producing country, imposes a cost on all our productive industries. The Government should take urgent steps to reduce the value of the pound or should accept the obligation to provide manufacturing industry with financial resources to offset the burdens that overvalued sterling and high interest rates impose.

The Government should pursue a policy of securing coke and coal subsidies from the EEC. If the steel industry were under private ownership it would have written off a great deal of its capitalization in order to survive. The Government should be prepared to write off at least £1,000 of BSC capital in order to enable it to compete more effectively. This would enable it to resolve the current dispute on a basis that does not expect the workers in the industry to bear all the costs of past and present misjudgments by governments and the management of BSC alike.

BL is faced with a similar creak in capacity. Other motor or manufacturers and suppliers all suffering from the current level of the pound and the high interest rates imposed by the Government's policy of basis and consideration was given to the problems of other motor manufacturers and suppliers who have received Government loans, then our prospects in this vital industry which is one of our main wealth generators upon which all other industries depend would be significantly improved.

These steps to tackle the problem of coke and coal, the problem of steel, which is a basic material for so many industries, and assistance to our largest and most important industry world, at a limited cost, go a substantial way to offsetting the worst effects on our economy of the Government's inability to bring down the value of sterling.

The alternative is further loss of markets at home and abroad not only through the steel dispute but through economic policies which cripple manufacturing industry. It took the Dutch 10 years to diagnose "Dutch disease". How long will this country suffer the loss of industry and jobs before we diagnose the same complaint?

Yours faithfully,  
ROY A. GRANTHAM,  
General Secretary,  
Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff,  
22 Worpole Road, SW19.  
January 15.

## Police and the public

From the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality

Sir, I welcome your leading article "The police protest too much" on January 14.

We in the Commission for Racial Equality are among those who, in your words, are not "antagonistic towards the police" but "want to see a respected and effective police force" in the eyes of all sections of the community.

The police have a difficult task, needing particular sensitivity in multi-racial urban areas, and the highest standards are expected of them. We acknowledge the increasing effort they are putting into community relations and the progress made in various parts of the country.

Nevertheless we have felt bound to criticize the police (just as we accept that they may and do criticize people working in race relations) when we think there is genuine cause for concern. As examples, the "sus" law is apparently being over-used by some police officers in parts of London, and this calls for urgent attention both by the police and by the Government; and the police must, in our view, take some of the blame for the violence and the casualties in the South Wales riots.

Problems of law enforcement demand cool analysis and serious discussion, but this is made harder if the police overreact even to responsible and constructive criticism.

As I have often said to police officers, their reputation is so high

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ROY A. GRANTHAM,  
General Secretary,  
Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff,  
22 Worpole Road, SW19.  
January 15.

## Churches and VAT

From the Archbishop of Northolt

Sir, March 25—Enoch Powell and Budget Day. Can both Archbishop and Chancellor announce the end of VAT on churches?

Yours faithfully,  
ROY SOUTHWELL,  
Gayton Lodge,  
71 Gayton Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex.  
January 18.

## Orphan's prayer

From Mr M. St Aubyn

Sir, It was my childhood belief that I was born in Slough, Buckinghamshire, and that house was in Redditch, Worcestershire. Once secure in adulthood I was allowed to know that in fact my birthplace was in Berkshire and that I had been brought up somewhere called Hereford and Worcester.

You have completed the woe of a gazetteer's orphan by writing (January 12) of "Redditch-Bromsgrove". I know Bromsgrove is a fine town as well, but please say you didn't mean it.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE ST AUBYN,  
55 Evesham Road, N11.

## THE MIRAGE OF COMPARABILITY

The National Water Council has got itself into an exemplary fix in its negotiations over pay, which resume this week. All the major groups of manual workers in the industry have now declared their readiness to take industrial action rather than accept an offer of 13 per cent, and union leaders have begun to describe with gusto the possible effects of an all-out strike on the comfort and even health of the community. It is not likely in practice that the consequences would immediately be as drastic as they imply—that would depend on the weather and on the attitude of other workers to attempts to maintain supplies with military help. In a national agreement in 1977 both sides promised to make every effort not to prejudice public health in a dispute, and it is possible, in spite of the statements that have been made, that this may be of some influence on the conduct of a dispute.

The argument is about pay comparisons. The main water workers' union amalgamated a few years ago with the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which includes many gas and electricity workers. The idea arose that comparable rates of pay should exist in all three industries supplying a staple commodity on an integrated monopolistic basis. The principle was conceded, a joint study carried out, and agreement reached

on the size of the gap. Then came the problem of implementation. The water industry, unlike the other two, derives its revenue from charges based on ratable values (not cushioned as local authority rates are by the effects of rate support grant), so that consumers are unable to save on cost by cutting down on consumption. This inflexibility makes it difficult to increase charges freely to meet wage costs, and the industry is therefore in no position to give an increase based on full comparability right away. The council made an offer which was actually smaller than what had already been offered to gas workers, and hopefully asserted that this took account of comparability.

The indignation of the employees was not unnatural. An offer frankly admitting that comparability could not be achieved at once and proposing some kind of phasing arrangement might have been better received, and may still provide a solution. The wider lesson of the affair is to demonstrate the pitfalls that lie in the way of attempts to base wage settlements on the idea of comparability. A great many factors bear upon both sides in any argument about wages, and obviously the rate paid for similar work in other industries or other parts of the country is one of them. It is tempting to suppose that through the use of such comparisons a

means may be evolved of fixing a rate that is fair and uncontroversial. This aspiration lies behind the efforts of the Clegg commission to take the pay of sensitive categories like nurses and dustmen "out of politics" by setting up a network of reference points once and for all.

The hope is a vain one. In practice there are so many imponderables involved that unambiguous results never appear. In comparisons between public and private sectors, arbitrary weight has to be given to job security, indexation of pensions and so on. There is always pressure to bring rates up to the level of the group that is doing best. The Government has acknowledged this inflationary trend in its plans to repeal the enactments of 1975 which gave a kind of statutory sanction to comparability bargaining, though it did not withhold its blessing from Clegg.

Any concept of a natural level of pay in any company or industry must reflect the ability of the employer to pay, and the ease or otherwise of finding people to work at a given rate, as well as comparisons with other categories. Comparability bargaining offers no escape from that weighing of actual interests in particular cases which is the essence of wage bargaining; and as the water industry shows, it is a mirage which can create conflict rather than bypass it.

## David Wood

## Importance of being Mrs Thatcher

Mrs Thatcher's strongest political asset as Prime Minister or formerly as a member of Mr Heath's front bench team, has been that she appeared to be consistent. Her political ideas and reflexes looked all of one piece, and she has developed a formidable skill in presenting herself as a leader who remains true to herself from one day to another, one crisis to another, and one subject to another. Her critics damn the characteristic as rigidity. Her friends, in and outside Westminster, bless her for having no truck with pragmatism, so that she always knows where she is intuitively standing.

That explains why so many Conservative politicians were shocked by last week's announcement from Mr David Howell, Energy Secretary, that for the next three years domestic gas prices would rise annually by 10 per cent above the going rate of inflation, on the issue of the Conservative Government.

Some of the conservative politicians have a deep conviction. It is that if the proposal had been made by the Energy Secretary in Mr Heath's Cabinet of 1970-74, Mrs Thatcher would have nagged and nagged until a proper explanation for the policy had been offered. Almost certainly she would have condemned it as unwarrantable government intervention in commercial decisions of a rationalized board, and an equally unwarrantable distortion of free market economics and of consumer choice.

She would have thundered with feminine feeling about the consequences for her constituents, especially the aged and the owner-occupiers who had borrowed or spent capital to follow the best market and convert to North Sea gas. She would have been in close harmony with the Conservative back-

benchers who in 1975 elected her party leader.

The Cabinet decision to tax domestic gas looked as if it sounded inconsistent with Mrs Thatcher's known philosophy and practice, and is not seen even by some devout Conservatives to square with the rhetoric and flavour of the 1979 general election manifesto. Nor is it only enough that many Conservative voters wonder how a 17 per cent mortgage rate can be made to fit into proposals for a property-owning democracy and the cut price sale of council houses. Hence, a growing (I believe misplaced) fear that in less than a year Mrs Thatcher, the great opponent of U-turns, begins to retreat into pragmatism, as Mr Heath did, in the attempt to contain inflation.

There need be little doubt that if Mrs Thatcher herself had made in 1975 the gas price increase, in terms of reducing demands on tax and conserving national fuel supplies, she would have carried the day easily and left her rank and file reasonably content. Mr Howell failed to convince the House 1922 backbenchers, or anybody who read *Guardian* and newspaper reports. As so often in politics, whether policies are good or bad, the presentation went wrong; and only the appearance of Mr Howell on the benign Jimmy Young radio show may hope to start a recovery.

No wonder, as the practical problems of increasing intensity, Mrs Thatcher and all who soldier along with her are increasingly preoccupied with the question of educating a democracy to the point where it understands that governments need time, that sometimes the quickest way to Birmingham is by way of Beachey Head, and that manless blacks and whites often finish up rather grey.

Yet it is clearly important to the Government and whole Conservative Party that Mrs Thatcher should keep intact her persona of a clear-headed woman who will not make tactical moves that put her grand strategy in for the decade in question. If the latest Gallup poll in the *Daily Telegraph* last week proves reliable she is doing rather well.

True, Labour was shown to lead by 9 per cent between January 9-14, and if the party could quieten down, consolidate on a new

moderate-looking leader to fight the next election, and show some signs of ability to govern its own affairs as well as the country's, the lead might be markedly greater. Nevertheless, according to Gallup, Conservatives are still thought, eight months after the general election, to have both the best overall policies and the best leaders.

Such a verdict, however temporary, proves to be a remarkable tribute to some of the ministers in Mrs Thatcher's administration. After all, for 11 out of the 15 years since 1964 two Labour prime ministers and members of their governments have the honour of sharing the public attention with all the benefits that brings in immediate public recognition and authority. Meanwhile, the Conservatives threw out their established party leader and gambled by bringing in an untried successor, the leader of a woman politician who had not cut much of a public figure until 1975.

Mrs Thatcher herself must be given the main credit, for in the end the Prime Minister, with his or her special share of the limelight, determines any view made about the quality of the government. Then all fall, and the 1922 Committee's instinct in early 1975 to risk the choice of the first woman leader appears to have been fully vindicated by events.

But still, looking at Gallup, we must wonder which other Conservative ministers have created the popular impression of an ability that surpasses Labour ministers who until last May were household names. How did the unknowns of the Thatcher team take over public esteem from James Callaghan, Denis Healey, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, and the rest?

The answer can only be that Lord Carrington's labours as Foreign Secretary have lately done the Government's image a lot of good; that James Prior looks and sounds like the most level-headed chap in politics; and that John Nott makes everybody in his audience feel they are as clever as he is. The others still have to make their mark. That is the importance for Conservatives of Mrs Thatcher always sounding true to herself.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

سكان من الدول

■ **Stock markets**  
FT Ind 459.8  
FT Cils 68.53

■ **Sterling**  
\$2.2855  
Index 71.9

■ **Dollar**  
Index 84.7

■ **Gold**  
\$835 an ounce

■ **3-month money**  
Inter-bank 16 1/4 to 17 1/4  
Euro-\$ 14 1/4 to 14 1/2  
(Friday's close)

### IN BRIEF

## New service helps NFC offshoot into profit

National Carriers, once the lame duck of the National Freight Corporation which the Government proposed to sell off to the private sector, is riding to prosperity on the back of highly specialised diversifications.

Profit this year is expected to beat last year's £2.5m it once had the unenviable record of a £2.5m loss on a £25m turnover. A substantial contribution to profits has come from the new Contract Services Division which not only hires lorries but also provides transport departments to meet customer requirements, including management and warehousing if required.

### US price fixing case

La Fayette Corporation of Wood Ridge, New Jersey, and Societe Nationale des Poudres et Explosifs of Paris are being sued by the United States Justice Department in the Federal Court at Newark, New Jersey. An injunction is being sought prohibiting them from maintaining or renewing agreements fixing the price of, imported industrial nitrocellulose.

### Airfix workers meet

The 940 employees, mostly women, occupying the Meccano plant on the Edge Hill industrial estate at Liverpool, have been called to a meeting at the plant this morning where union officials and senior shop stewards will report on the recent talks in London with the board of Airfix.

### Singapore rate rise

United Overseas Bank one of Singapore's Big Four local banks, has raised its prime rate to 9.75 per cent from 9.5 per cent effective today. Ching Khaw Bank and Lee Wah Bank, both affiliates of UOB did likewise.

### Korean oil finance

Fourteen foreign banks have signed a \$200m (about £88m) loan agreement in Seoul to help finance Hanjin Oil Company's expansion project. Hanjin is a 50-50 joint venture between Caltex Petroleum of the United States and Lucky Limited of Korea.

### Credit for Zambia

The European Investment Bank has announced in Luxembourg that it will lend up to 2.8m Units of Account (about £860,000) for modernisation of cement works at Lusaka, for a maximum of 20 years at 2 per cent interest.

### £4m sewage contract

John Laing Construction has won a £4m contract by the Yorkshire Water Authority to carry out work on a section of the Eskhott sewage treatment plant which serves Bradford and the surrounding area.

### Gas from coal plant

Shell Nederland is planning to build a coal gasification plant with an intake of coal of 1,000 tonnes a day to produce a gas which is economically and technically feasible.

### Volkswagen for Peru

Peru has accepted a bid by Volkswagenwerk to manufacture a car and a five-to-six tonne lorry for the five-nation Andean Pact Group, Sr Jorge du Bois, the industry minister said in Lima.

### Sindona trial delay

The scheduled trial of Signor Michele Sindona in New York has been delayed for at least a week because prosecution witnesses in Italy are reluctant to travel to the United States to testify.

### New RTSA chairman

Mr John Wilcox, north-west Europe area director for the International Wool Secretariat, is to become chairman of the Retail Trading Standards Association. He succeeds Mr Gavin Fisher, formerly of Courtauld.

## CBI proposes a seven-point plan to create 2.5m jobs in decade

By Edward Townsend

Britain must create at least 2.5m new jobs in the next decade to bring unemployment down to the million mark the Confederation of British Industry says. This can only be done if the issues are faced with resolve.

In a discussion document published today the CBI says that the scale of future unemployment in Britain will be higher and the country's ability to ease the social problem will be reduced if we are uncompetitive in world markets. "The evidence is overwhelming that by and large we use labour inefficiently; that this inefficiency threatens jobs now and in the future; and that unless changes in attitudes are achieved—changes in attitudes as much as changes in effort or professional skills—we are sowing the seeds for growing unemployment and social divisiveness in the years ahead."

The CBI, stressing the important role to be played by new technology in industry, urges the Government, employers and trade unions to formulate a joint approach towards solving the problem of unemployment. It lays down a seven-point programme of action, including a call on business itself to examine methods to make an efficient market economy more acceptable socially.

"Unless our mixed economy shows that it cares about people as individuals, and not just as units of labour or potential customers, it may produce an affluent society, but it will not produce a just one."

The CBI believes its approach to the impact of new technology is similar to that of the Trades Union Congress. But it feels there is one significant divergence of view; it sees the TUC as wishing to use new technology as a means of expanding collective bargaining and moving towards a "working week" while the CBI views its acceptance as part of the drive to remain competitive.

The document says that to achieve greater international competitiveness and productivity will require action that will increase unemployment in the short term as automation levels are reduced or the emphasis of tax and public expenditure is shifted.

"If this essentially transitional period is to be successfully negotiated, and the major improvements which are

needed to Britain's competitiveness achieved, it is vital that employers and managers show that they are not unaware of, and indeed share the concerns of their employees about jobs in the future."

Clearly the CBI is not in favour of a shorter working week in industry and would prefer to consider hours as part of an "annual time budget" in a bid to achieve maximum flexibility throughout the year, including holiday provision.

"If, for instance, some of the more pessimistic forecasts (about unemployment) proved accurate, it would be necessary to consider seriously the introduction of paid sabbaticals so that unemployment as well as work was shared or rotated. Theoretically, a six-month sabbatical for everyone once in five years, or 12 months every 10 years, would remove 10 per cent of the working population from the labour market."

Any move to reduce the hours of manual workers must be seen as part of the progress towards single status employment conditions and a joint approach at company and plant level would help.

"Without it the real danger is that sooner or later bargaining pressures will force through reductions in hours—perhaps after damaging industrial disputes—which will make British trade and industry less competitive and thus, in time, make the unemployment situation worse."

The document has already been condemned by the Equal Pay and Opportunity Campaign (EPOC) which said that the CBI had ignored the threat of new technology on women's jobs.

In a statement issued early today EPOC said: "The CBI admits that micro-electronics will have an uneven effect, and that hardest hit will be secretarial and clerical work, the service industries and routine assembly work, but it fails to point out that these threatened jobs are primarily women's jobs."

EPOC is to publish its own report on the subject and said that as a result of its studies it found that most companies have their heads in the sand and were not monitoring the impact of the changes and were unable to give statistics on job losses or gains.

"Jobs—facing the future, a CBI staff discussion document, CBI, 72 Tothill Street, London, E3.

Management, page 17

## Japan takes half of new ship orders

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor  
Japan's shipbuilders won orders for 236 ships for foreign owners last year totalling nearly 5.5 million tons gross. This was equivalent to about one-third of all foreign orders estimated to have been placed throughout the world last year.

Shipbuilding experts believe that the worst of the shipbuilding industry's difficulties may be over.

Overall, new orders gained last year by the world's shipyards grew estimated at between 15-16 million tons gross. Although this represents a marked improvement on the levels of a year earlier, it is still substantially below the level of the industry's capacity despite the restrictions which have taken place over the past two years.

Japan's export orders last year were more than double the volume of export contracts taken in the previous year and, together with domestic orders, the Japanese yards are estimated to have secured about 50 per cent of all the orders placed last year.

According to the Japan Ship Exporters' Association, they took orders for 45 ships totalling over more than 1 million tons gross during December alone, which, significantly, was very close to the monthly average of foreign orders obtained by Japanese yards in the peak year of 1965.

Orders for bulk carriers accounted for just over 50 per cent of the orders placed with Japan by foreign owners last month. Orders were also placed for 20 tankers.

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Japan Yen	569.00	544.00
buy	sell	Netherlands G	4.51	4.28
Bank	Bank	Norway Kr	11.58	11.08
buy	sell	Portugal Esc	119.50	112.50
Bank	Bank	South Africa Rd	2.17	2.17
buy	sell	Spain Ptas	166.50	149.50
Bank	Bank	Sweden Kr	9.76	9.36
buy	sell	Switzerland Fr	3.50	3.58
Bank	Bank	USA \$	2.33	2.26
buy	sell	Yugoslavia Dnr	53.00	49.00
Australia \$				
Austria Sch				
Belgium Fr				
Denmark Kr				
Finland Mk				
France Fr				
Germany Dm				
Greece Dr				
Hong Kong \$				
Italy Lira				

## New interest rates boost National Savings inflow

By Margaret Stone

The full impact of the improved National Savings terms announced in the November economic package was felt in December when pensioners and regular savers flocked to put their money into index-linked securities.

A record £150.6m was invested in the index-linked Government Issue of National Savings Certificates, the so-called "Gummy Bonds", following the increase in the maximum holding from £700 to £1,200 at the beginning of the month.

It must have been fears of rising inflation alone which triggered off the big response for index-linked Save-As-You-Earn contracts where net receipts were £25.5m in December.

The higher interest rate of

15 per cent which took effect this month failed to have much impact on National Savings Bank investment account where there was a modest outflow of £1.4m in December. A much larger outflow of £27.2m, however, was experienced by the conventional issues of National Savings Bank, the so-called "British Savings Bonds" of £11.4m reflects the Government's decision to withdraw permanently bonds from the National Savings repertoire.

The net increase in December of £130.7m brings the total sum invested in National Savings to £12,520.4m compared with £10,940.4m this time last year.

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## Decca chairman may hold out for higher price

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Financial Editor  
Talks will continue today between Racal Electronics and Decca with the aim of reaching an agreement later in the week on the price Racal is prepared to pay for a takeover.

At present Decca is worth around £60m in the stock market with its ordinary shares standing at 345p and its non-voting stock at 305p. The performance of the shares in the market over the last three years has been the sort of price Racal would want to offer, given Decca's substantial problems.

But a closer look at nominee shareholdings in Decca suggests that Sir Edward Lewis, the company's chairman,

could rely on about 25 per cent of votes, and could argue that Racal will have to pay slightly more—perhaps £65m to £70m—to secure board agreement. Without such agreement, Racal says, it will not want to proceed, but at this stage the company is optimistic that terms can be reached.

Price apart, there are two other complications. While Decca has agreed terms for the sale of its music business to PolyGram and could receive as much as £23m over a three-year period for it, Decca remains responsible for carrying through the heavy redundancies involving about 1,000 people. A sum of £2.5m has been set aside to fund the redundancy programme, but no one is suggest-

ing it is going to be an easy task, and Decca shareholders will have to agree on the PolyGram deal before it can be completed.

The second problem is Decca's television interests. Mr Guli Lalvani, chairman of electronics distributors Bionics, is interested, possibly with Korean partners, in buying these and has opened negotiations with Decca. Like most British television manufacturers, Decca has had difficulty competing with Far East manufacturers in the colour market, but nevertheless Mr Lalvani's reported price of £2m for the business looks very optimistic.

Decca's television interests have a net

worth of around £10m, including a modern plant at Bridgewater, Somerset. So a price of £12m would be more realistic.

Obviously the price paid for the television interests has a major bearing on Racal's terms. Whether or not Mr Lalvani is able to proceed, Racal has made it clear that it is not interested in consumer electronics. It wants Decca's marine and air based communication and navigational systems, which it sees as complementary to its own land based and mobile military communications businesses. So if Racal has to buy Decca's television interests to get the whole company, it could put them on the market almost at once.

## Ruling soon on foreign takeover of US bank

From Anthony Hilton

New York, Jan 20

The board of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank should know by the end of this week whether its 18-month battle to acquire control of Marine Midland, the shareholders' largest bank in the United States, will succeed.

The proposed \$300m (about £133m) merger, which would be the largest takeover of a domestic bank by a non-American organization, has been blocked by Ms Muriel Siebert, New York State commissioner for banking, almost since it was first announced in April last year.

Last June, after more than a year of delays, Marine Midland applied to the comptroller of currency in Washington for a national charter, which if granted would put it beyond Ms Siebert's jurisdiction and enable the merger to proceed.

The comptroller's decision is imminent, and the announcement is likely on Thursday or Friday.

Marine Midland confirmed in New York that it expected the verdict "any day now". A spokesman said the comptroller's permission was the last hurdle the bank had to negotiate in its bid to acquire the deal could be completed.

Once Marine Midland has its charter, Hongkong and Shanghai must make an offer for 25 per cent of its stock within 10 days. This is a first step towards implementing the deal which ultimately will give it 51 per cent of the American bank.

Normally obtaining a national charter would be a foregone conclusion for a bank of the stature of Marine Midland, but among the criteria the comptroller must consider is whether the proposed change of status is motivated by a desire to circumvent bank supervision.

Many would argue that the deal does fall into this category. If it were found to be the case, Marine Midland's application should be turned down.

The Hongkong and Shanghai bid is worth \$25 a share

## Leyland Vehicles plans common production of components with other truck makers



Mr David Abell: cooperation in future for the commercial vehicle industry.

By Clifford Webb  
Leyland Vehicles, the truck and bus side of BL, has ended its "isolationist days" and is negotiating with other British and foreign commercial vehicle manufacturers to cooperate in producing main components.

Mr David Abell, Leyland Vehicles' chairman and managing director, said yesterday: "The criticisms we have met for being isolationist in our outlook is no longer true. The first deal will be announced shortly."

He said talks ranged over the whole component field and included possible licensing deals, expanding production to meet another company's needs, "bivving off" components or even swapping them.

"This is the future road for every one in commercials. But results do not happen overnight: negotiations are necessarily detailed because we must get them right first time."

Another Leyland Vehicles executive said: "There is a noticeable difference in other manufacturers' attitudes towards us now because at last we have something to offer. It

is not overstating the case to say that Leyland Vehicles is poised for an exciting new period in its history and the competition is well aware of this."

This is a clear reference to Leyland's new T45 family of premium trucks, with a basic cab design ranging from light-weight to the heaviest in use in Europe.

The first model will be launched early in March and is already attracting the attention of competitors.

Of the company's present position, Mr Abell said: "I must be careful not to preempt publication of BL's annual report in March, but let me say clearly that 1979—against all the odds—was a year of real achievement at Leyland Vehicles."

"Despite the road haulage dispute, despite the engineering strike, despite the successful battle to save our Titan bus from extinction, we built more trucks and buses in 1979 than in 1978—and with a richer mix of good, profit-earning models."

He added Leyland Vehicles

began 1979 with 28,000 employees, reduced during the year by 5,000 to 23,000. That "dramatic reduction" was achieved without strife or fuss and coupled with increased output.

Mr Abell went on: "The resultant roughly break-even situation which the 1979 results will show is, I submit, something of which we can be proud. This new, leaner organization means that Leyland Vehicles is geared and ready for the challenge of the eighties."

Leyland Vehicles made a trading loss of £3.5m last year, but this increased to over £15m with repayment of loan interest.

Taiwan assembly, BL and Renault are negotiating with the Taiwanese government for their cars to be assembled in a proposed 200,000 vehicle-a-year factory. A BL spokesman said: "We are not interested in joint involvement or any financial investment in the Taiwan project. Our executives have been here for discussions of a straightforward assembly deal."

## 14pc decline in Britain's car output forecast for 1980

By Edward Townsend

A new set of forecasts for the British motor industry suggests that car production in 1980 will drop by almost 14 per cent from last year's level to about 950,000, the lowest level since 1957.

Total new car sales this year are expected to be 10.5 per cent down on 1979 at 1,530,000. The domestic industry is likely to be the worst hit, with imports declining by only 5.2 per cent to 910,000.

The predictions come in the latest issue of The Economist Intelligence Unit's Motor Busi-

ness series. The lower production forecast is made despite the assumption that Ford will build up stocks to meet demand for some of its models and that there will be a substantial build-up of stocks of British Leyland's new Mini Metro.

On exports the report says that the possibly half of the 1979 total of 400,000 cars produced for overseas markets is at risk, although such a drastic decline is unlikely. Risk areas include BL's shipments to Europe of cars in kit form and Talbot's business with Iran.

The report adds: "Much depends on the degree of success achieved by BL in its efforts to obtain higher sales in the USA but, with MG production winding down and a big drop in the United States market predicted, the going will be tough."

Exports of car exports from the United Kingdom this year are 350,000, a fall of 12.5 per cent on the 1979 figure which was itself 19 per cent below 1978 exports.

Motor Business expects imports this year to account for almost 60 per cent of total

sales in Britain and forecasts a major battle between suppliers facing a weak market.

The report argues that in the competition for sales in the 1980s BL will need the Mini Metro and Boney (the car being produced in collaboration with Honda) to stand still—let alone claw back its lost position."

BL's position is seen as "decidedly sticky" and the company's market share is expected to slip to 17 or 18 per cent while Ford is seen as being on "the crest of a wave".

## Far north drilling to go ahead

Exploration for oil and gas north of the 62nd parallel off Norway's coast is to go ahead early this year, in spite of objections from environmentalists.

The British Government also said recently it intended to include blocks north of the 62nd parallel in its seventh round of licensing, details of which are expected in the coming months. It is hoped such exploration could add significantly to both countries' offshore reserves.

In Norway the government has confirmed it is to allow drilling to go ahead on three concessions some time before May 15.

The oil lobby in Norway is relieved by this decision after fears had been expressed that there would be delays to launch a new round of activity beyond the present limit.

The reason for this was the publication of a report by the Norwegian Maritime Research Institute which said that present standards of pollution prevention and oil spill recovery would fail to protect between 60 and 95 per cent of a spill from an uncontrolled blowout.

It now seems, however, that the Government is determined to go ahead, possibly because more delay would be interpreted as a tacit acceptance of the arguments of entrenched environmentalists.

## Average Opec oil prices show 27.5pc increase

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Oil price rises associated with the December meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Venezuela have added 27.5 per cent to the Opec average selling price, according to calculations by Petroleum Intelligence Weekly.

On the basis of average prices weighted by latest estimates of production, the average Opec government selling price at January 17 was \$26.83 a barrel compared with \$21.04 in October. Rises announced around the time of the Caracas meeting by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Iraq were all backdated to November 1, resulting in a large rise in prices for that month.

The new average price is more than twice the level of \$13.50 of a year ago and compares with \$12.86 in December 1978 when Opec still had a unified price structure and before the crisis in Iran sent spot market prices soaring.

For consumer countries the real price of oil is between \$1 and \$3 higher



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Farmland investment as prices start to fall

The price of agricultural land has been falling. According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, the average price per hectare has dropped from £4,344 in the quarter from May-July, to £4,002 in the three months to November, and there are no signs yet of a reversal in the trend.

Even after this setback, however, anyone going out to buy arable land as an investment is going to be lucky to get it on a yield of much over 3 per cent; so it could be argued that the correction is long overdue, and has further to go. After all, with gilts selling on running yields of over 14 per cent, and ordinary shares yielding over 6 per cent on average, the income on arable land is going to have to rise very sharply to justify a purchase on such a return.

This is, of course, exactly what the income on arable land has been doing over the past three to four years, with rentals increasing by around 18 per cent per annum compound, in the wake of a sharp rise in farm profitability.

In part that increase in profitability arose from the benefits of entry to the EEC—once-and-for-all benefits, now reflected in the adjustment of rents. Any future increases in profitability are, in consequence, likely to be more moderate; and this year round, because of big increases in costs and a poor outlook on prices, it looks as though profits will, if anything, decline.

With most farms let on three-year reviews, that decline is not likely to be mirrored in rental levels; but they certainly will not increase by as much as they have in the past few years.

But, if some of the glamour has gone out of farmland as an investment, that doesn't necessarily mean there is or will be a wholesale flight from the land. Because the market is very narrow, most institutional buyers have been well aware that purchases had to be made on a longer-term view; and though they may not be buying now, there is no sign they are selling.

Indeed, if interest rates in general were to fall in the wake of the Budget, thereby cutting both the farmers' costs and the relative attractions of other investments, the market might very well pick up again. For as aficionados Hill Samuel point out, this is one industry at which the British can be relied upon to succeed.

The argument is an odd one, though, particularly from a member of the big eight. After all, no company admits to changing its auditors because they charge too much (they are officially in business to guard, not the interests of the managers, but those of the shareholders who employ them); and it is very rare indeed for a company to make the change from one of the big eight, on any pretext other than a takeover.

Of course that great middle ground in the accountancy profession, for which the big eight keep prophesying degeneration and eventual dissolution, is likely to be restrained in its pricing policies by competition—competition from the big eight themselves. But while the latter continue to offer a sophisticated service, a name—and expertise in liquidations—there is no real reason to suppose that any of them will suffer, like their customers, from the hard times ahead.

### Issues

#### A first for Felixstowe

Stockbrokers Seymour, Pierce have come up with a unique fixed interest investment in the shape of a £6.5m issue of 9½ per cent cumulative redeemable preference stock 1984 for Felixstowe Dock and Railway.

Similar issues are of course two a penny for water companies but this is the first time an ordinary company has attempted to test the appetite of institutional investors for this sort of paper.

In this case there is a further complication of the chequered history of other dock companies and this issue has had to be pitched around a point higher than a water company could have got away with even though there is a copper-bottomed guarantee from its parent European Ferries.

The gross yield on the issue price of 13.84 per cent (and a redemption yield of 14.13 per cent) will not of course drag the private investor away from the gilt-edged market. But for corporate concerns which can gross up this income as franked investment—allowing them to pay net dividends on their own capital tax-free—the flat yield rises to 20.19 per cent. With yields like that available, what attractions has the equity market?

● The reopening of the Eurosterling Bond market after a six months' gap has once again been carefully timed to cash in on foreign buying of sterling, most particularly by those investors who prefer the gross payment of interest on a bearer Eurobond to the aggravation of recovering tax from net-paid gilts. If market rumour is to be believed there are at least one or two more would-be issuers waiting in the wings.

Caution is in order, however. The Eurosterling market is not about to emerge as a major new force in the international financing world. Citicorp's present £50m 10-year issue will, by general consent, mop up most of the available liquidity in what is still a small market. The volatility of second-hand market prices is one measure of this.

The long-term constraint upon the growth of the Eurosterling market is that it offers little appeal to the natural buyers of sterling bonds, the British. Thanks to the attractions implicit in the anonymity of a gross paid Eurobond, Citicorp is securing its funds at 13½ per cent, a full half point or more below a comparable dated gilt. This is an unacceptable differential to most United Kingdom institutions.

Indeed, it is questionable how much institutional appetite there is anywhere. The traditional interest in Eurosterling issues has come from the continental retail market, and most big investors still look to gilts.

Retail demand is certainly not lacking, but there are few signs at this stage that Citicorp's issue will be anything like the sell-out that GEC's Eurosterling deal was last July.

## In search of new system of monetary control

John Whitmore

'It is vital to remember that the monetary control mechanism cannot, in itself, provide a magic solution for restraining monetary growth'—Mr Nigel Lawson (left), Financial Secretary to the Treasury



For most of us, the great debate about money is a simple one. We want a lot more; the Government says that we should make do with a good deal less.

There is, of course, a rather more esoteric economic debate taking place on money, namely on the virtues or otherwise of monetarism—the fashionable slant being to ask: "is monetarism enough?"

Not to be forgotten, however, is the very much more specialist debate on the appropriate methods of achieving monetary control. It is a debate that should come to a head over the next couple of months, once the Government has raised—probably by the middle of February—its promised consultative paper on possible ways of improving the techniques of monetary control.

Why, though, does the present system need improving? Jokes about competition and credit control (and its subsequent modifications) failing to control credit, and finally stifling banking competition into the bargain, are easy to make. The fact of the matter is that the system was never designed for the precision of monetary control now demanded by monetary policy.

It has too many technical weaknesses: it is capable of leading to too many complexities and distortions; it fails to provide the authorities with the scope for the speed and decisiveness of response that the require.

Finally, the "corset" has been rendered obsolete as a method of control by last October's abolition of exchange controls.

When looking for an improved system of monetary control, it is vital, as Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, reminded us in a City speech last Friday, to remember that the monetary control mechanism cannot, in itself, provide a magic solution for restraining monetary growth.

No system will work if it is asked to work against impossible odds. In other words, the first priority for any government seeking to control expansion of the money supply must be to adopt a fiscal policy that is consistent with its monetary policy.

Mr Lawson might have added that, even in the appropriate economic policy environment, a monetary control system will only work as well as those in charge allow it to. One criticism of monetary control during the seventies has been that the system may have been, the operators of the system have all too often prevented it from working as effectively as it might.

The essence of this criticism is that politicians have tended to allow interest rates to be raised too late in the day, and that the Bank of England, which handles the sales of gilt-edged securities that remove money from the system, has been too unresponsive and too passive in the way it has run the gilt market.

The element of discretion the

authorities should have in regulating interest rates not unnaturally has become an issue in the present debate.

In looking for an improved monetary control system, there are three key areas that need to be taken into account: the definition of the money one is seeking to control; a control mechanism for the banking system; and techniques of marketing government debt.

The consultative document will almost certainly give most attention to the second of these elements, albeit that the others are important and will need to be touched upon. It may well be that the authorities will on balance prefer to keep sterling M3—resident sterling deposits at the banks plus notes and coins held by the private sector—as its leading measure of money.

But there is certainly a case, particularly in the wake of the abolition of exchange controls, for considering other definitions of money. The strict M3 measure which includes resident deposits in foreign

There is also a case for having more than one measure of money. For one of the things that has become apparent during the years of sterling M3 targetting, and which is now known as Goodhart's Law (after the Bank's chief adviser on monetary policy), is that once you choose a single target, traditional relationships tend to break down and the target ceases to become a useful measure.

Among the more favoured measures advocated by monetary economists are those that include private sector holdings of Treasury bills (which can easily be converted into the overall monetary base by discounting at the Bank's target rate). There are, however, several differences of opinion on what money and building society deposits, which are now larger than personal sector deposits at the clearing banks.

When it comes to finding a new mechanism for the banking system, the quest is for one which is relatively simple, as little prone to distortion as pos-

sible, capable of being monitored with ease and immediacy, and unlikely to impede banking competition or lead to the credit creation process either being driven out of the banking system or offshore.

The increasingly mooted answer, though still not regarded with obvious keenness in some official circles, is some form of controlled currency. The key element in this system is cash, or more precisely, the banks' deposits with the central bank and their own holdings of notes and coins. This becomes what is known as the monetary base and, in the view of many advocates of reform, what the authorities should seek to control.

Control is supposed to flow in such a system, first through the banks' being required to maintain a set ratio between their total (eligible) assets and their individual cash bases and, secondly, through the central bank taking appropriate action exactly should constitute the monetary base, not to mention differences of opinion on the appropriate degree of rigidity for such a system, the role of the central bank as lender of last resort and, indeed, even, whether or not the monetary base should be a published monetary target.

If we do emerge with some workable proposition for a monetary base system, however, the remaining question will then be the determination of the authorities to make it work. Those who hold hardest to the view that control of the quantity of money in the economy is all important, quite logically insist that the authorities cannot also try to determine the price of money.

Whether the authorities are in fact ready to cede that control entirely remains to be seen, just as it remains to be seen how far banking and financial market operators will be prepared to support change once the debate hot up.

## Scotland—playing pneumonia to England's chill

Slippage may menacingly describe earthquakes or economic performance, and there has been some of each recently between England and Scotland. Most people slept through the terrestrial shudder that rattled the borders at Christmas; many more are awake to the ineluctable shift of figures in recent months and the gloom-laden forecasts which show Scotland returning to the old role of playing pneumonia to England's chill.

The slippage is particularly depressing because it comes after a lengthy period when the main economic indicators showed consistent improvement north of the border.

Oil was the catalyst for this improvement helping the United Kingdom by tipping the balance of payments but aiding

completed Scotland's old scars reopened. The picture clouded further when, for the sake of neat bookkeeping, oil production was put in a specially created category called the North Sea region and included in the United Kingdom index.

Some sectors of heavy industry became more and more outdated, the slump in shipbuilding dragged the economy further down, and then last year the big closures started to happen.

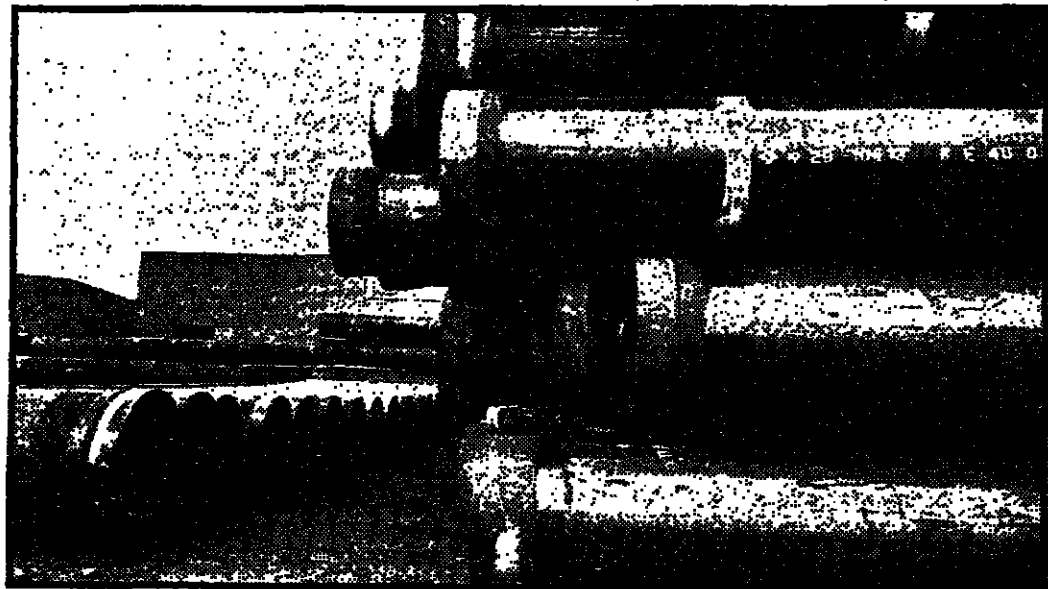
Some of the largest Scottish employers began to buckle at the knees. Singer of Clydebank laid off 4,800 during the year, Massey-Ferguson 1,500, Govan Shipbuilders 1,100, BSR East Kilbride 1,000, and Chrysler, Linwood—now Talbot—1,250.

Another 17 big companies laid off between 200 and 900 men each, bringing the total for the year to 100,000. The index of industrial production in Scotland, which in 1976 actually overtook the United Kingdom average—curved downwards.

The forecast of the Fraser of Allender Institute at Strathclyde University has proved too optimistic over recent months, with unemployment worsening more rapidly than anticipated.

Predictions for the next five years are even gloomier, with a stagnant economy and unemployment rising by half again.

The Confederation of British Industry in Scotland forecasts a stable recession with a fall in investment and rise in unemployment. The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) survey of manufactur-



"Scotland's hopes seem still to lie at the bottom of the North Sea"—an offshore plant at Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire.

ing companies is expecting a further net reduction of 1,700 jobs in the near future which would push unemployment from 7.9 per cent to 9 per cent.

None of the forecasts sees any light on the economic horizon before 1982, and then only a modest gleam. The crucial exporting industries are given few hopeful prospects and the construction industry, a big employer in Scotland, faces a grim future chiefly because many capital programmes are about to feel the Government's axe.

For the Scottish Development Agency the Government's principal job winner, the task is daunting. The weakness of the dollar and the strength of the pound, and the sharp move away from industries which employ large numbers towards industries that employ automatic processes, all compound, Scotland's economic problems.

The competition to attract overseas companies to Scotland is fierce, with America a prime target. United States companies have already invested £200m establishing manufacturing satellites in Scotland. These companies have found Scotland a useful springboard for Middle East, European and African markets particularly in oil-related work.

Government help has been useful but no panacea. The SDA was given powerful funding to help regenerate the Scottish economy, but it quickly discovered that this is easier for politicians to talk about than for companies, in which they had a stake, to translate into profitable ventures.

Five of its subsidiary or associated companies have closed down and last year the investment portfolio of the agency showed a loss of more than £1.5m.

Trade unionists are holding their collective breath over the possible effects of the steelworkers' strike on vulnerable firms—many of which, once closed will never reopen.

With such grim news on land, Scotland's hopes seem still to lie at the bottom of the North Sea. Orders have gone to five oil platform yards and the North Sea is gearing itself for another burst of activity.

Events in the Middle East make the North Sea more attractive, as political stability outweighs the inconvenience of plumbing the sea bed. If there is indeed an increase in the pace of the search for oil, Scotland may get another chance to make some of the essential changes in its basic industrial structure.

But the short-term looks bad. Little has been heard about the plans to divert Civil Service jobs to Scotland. A man who holds himself as living proof that civil servants are indeed devolving northwards was tapped on his chest by a sceptical Glaswegian recently and told: "It's no you we want, sunshine, it's your job." Orpington and Cheam stand easy.

### Ronald Faux

Scotland by generating some 60,000 jobs—which are more than are left in either shipbuilding or steel. The transfusing shock ran right through the economy, but was not enough to rebuild the foundations of Scottish heavy industry.

Indeed, it is questionable how much institutional appetite there is anywhere. The traditional interest in Eurosterling issues has come from the continental retail market, and most big investors still look to gilts.

Retail demand is certainly not lacking, but there are few signs at this stage that Citicorp's issue will be anything like the sell-out that GEC's Eurosterling deal was last July.

## Business Diary profile: Sir Nigel and the CAA

Sir Nigel Foulkes (he likes to hear it pronounced "folks" rather than "fookes"), which could be construed as having two lower-case fs and as being a touch aristocratically in chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority.

This is the licensing authority for the airline industry, and decisions at the CAA's headquarters in the City will set the course on which British civil aviation flies for some years to come.

The authority has before it applications from one group of independent airlines to take over 26 domestic United Kingdom routes which British Airways has given up as unprofitable, from other independents for permission to fly cheap-fare services into Europe, and from Laker, British Caledonian and Cathay Pacific for route rights between London and Hong Kong.

It is not a heavy-handed man. A commercial hand is Sir Nigel's watchword—and has been since he took over the chair on a five-year part-time contract in 1977. It is likely that some of the applicant airlines will not be dismayed.

Sir Nigel spent 25 years in the private sector, before putting a toe into the world of aviation bureaucracy by taking the chairmanship of the British Airports Authority. His graphic phrases on that occasion seven years ago are still recalled when aviation buffs meet. "I'm not coming in like the sheriff of Tombstone with a gun on my hip," Sir Nigel said.

Since then he has proved a deft hand at memorable phrases, a few of which have passed into aviation lore. He

often talks about "flying wedges of passengers" when discussing airport congestion. Justifying priority at airports for scheduled air traffic, over executive jets he put a lot of noses out of joint by inquiring why "peach-fed mandarins" should get the cream.

Sir Nigel's early style riled people at the BAA's imposing headquarters opposite the traders' entrance to Buckingham Palace.

The big break came after just about five years, with Sir Nigel, a great believer in making on and accepting new challenges, let it be known in Whitehall that if they could not find anything else for him to do, he would return to the private sector.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter had established the aviation authority from scratch and firmly held all the reins. Sir Nigel slipped into his chair and delighted like mad. Boyd-Carpenter had begun to make the authority less dependent on central funds to make up its deficit, and Sir Nigel continued this work.

Sir Nigel has been unable to get it completely right. There are intractable problems with European air traffic control and the multi-year, multi-billion-pound, but where control is possible, a big turn-round in the authority's finances has been achieved.

Everybody at the CAA these days knows exactly what part of the operation is his or her responsibility, but Sir Nigel keeps a beady eye on the whole operation, even though this is a four-day-a-week brief. Friday is his "day off", but on that day whizz bangs are often loosed from the chairman's office. Nonetheless, he pursues his self-described role as a "professional manager", he keeps up directorships with the Charterhouse Group, Stone Platt and the Belgian group Bekears. Past directorships have included one at Bulmers, PE Consultants, Birfield, International Nickel and Bank Xerox.

Sir Nigel is now 60, but looks much younger. He has been around the business world for a long time, but—despite a knightship in the New Year honours list—he is not well-known outside his own line of business.

He will not give interviews to the newspapers, radio or even the all-powerful television unless he feels it is absolutely necessary to inform the public. During a dispute that dates and crisis control he popped up a couple of times. Asked why he will not lay out

his wares, he says things like: "I'm not part of the entertainment industry."

Once a year, however, he does emerge—at the CAA report and accounts press conference. Here he gives a crisp résumé of what is happening, laced with his particular brand of salty aphorism.

The new Civil Aviation Bill gives the authority far greater freedom from government control than it has ever had, but there is no need for the aviation industry to fear wholesale change as a result. It is more likely that there will be a continuation of the quite liberal licensing which has been Sir Nigel's hallmark ever since he came in—to use his own words: "regulation with a light touch."

Just occasionally, Sir Nigel does rile the head of an airline. Ross Stainton, British Airways chairman, was not happy at being prised out of a couple of domestic routes in favour of the independents. Adam Thomson of British Caledonian was decidedly irked to be refused a service to Southern Rhodesia—British Airways won on that occasion.

There is little doubt that American deregulation, the Catter policy under which any airline can fly where it likes at any fare, is affecting the way the CAA thinks. Ironically, a side-effect of that policy is that the Civil Aeronautics Board, the CAA's opposite number in the United States, has instructions to ward itself up, there being nothing left to regulate. Could it happen here?

Arthur Reed



Regulation with a light touch: Sir Nigel Foulkes, Civil Aviation Authority chairman (right), Sir Freddie Laker of Laker Airways (left), followed by Ross Stainton (British Airways) and Adam Thomson (BCA).

## Hull fights to stay afloat

There has seldom been a time in recent years when news of the fishing industry at the Port of Hull has been other than depressing. Today it is worse than ever. The fishing industry is in a critical situation to a point at which responsible, knowledgeable people are talking openly about the death of the deep sea fleet.

Indeed, Mr James Johnson, the West Hull MP, said at the weekend that if urgent steps were not taken Hull would no longer be a fishing port in six months time. Earlier this month Mr Johnson chaired a crisis meeting to examine ways and means of stopping the fishing fleet simply wasting away.

The catching section of the industry is not the only group concerned. All facets of fish handling and processing are feeling the draught and all, including the big trade unions at Hull, were represented at the meeting. An ad hoc committee has been formed and heard Mr Johnson report that he has sent urgent letters to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food asking Mr Peter Walker, the minister, to receive a deputation from Hull.

The immediate problem at Hull is that there is about one month left of the mackerel fishing season. Usually mackerel fishing lasts until the end of March.

Hull is Britain's freezer trawler port with between 22 and 25 of the big vessels operational. The North-east Arctic is the only fishing ground left for British distant water vessels and under normal circumstances they would finish mackerel fishing in March and sail for the best of the Arctic fishing from April to the end of June.

A substantial reduction in the permitted catch in that part of the world, however, has produced new problems. Last year

the EEC had an allocation of 32,000 tons of which the United Kingdom was allotted 24,000 tons. The industry is now limited to 17,000 tons of which the United Kingdom is allocated less than 12,000 tons.

From the end of mackerel fishing on February 16 therefore many vessels will have nowhere to go until the start of the Scottish mackerel season in March.

The federation admits that the Government has made a small gesture by financing four freezer trawlers on exploratory trips to the Western Approaches looking for scud or horse mackerel.

The political dilemma of the Government is that it is pursuing a policy which says that every industry must stand on its own feet. The industry itself would be the first to agree with that, if only because it considers itself the most expert and progressive in the world, providing it was up against fair competition.

However, "the fact is that every other EEC fishing fleet

is being subsidized in one form or another and we simply cannot compete against other governments' subsidies", claims the BFF. These include subsidies for fuel oil, laying up and scrapping programmes, exploratory voyages to unfamiliar waters searching for unfamiliar species and even the promotion of fish.

With some bitterness the BFF points out that the exploratory voyages from other EEC countries invariably turn out to be trips to catch familiar species in familiar waters. Britain plays the game and underakes genuine exploratory trips.

Another complaint of the British industry is that it has suffered more than any other EEC country from the reduction of fishing opportunities, and gained less by way of recompense than any other EEC country.

Estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food based on evidence from international scientists, put the potential yield from EEC waters at 5.9 million tonnes a year worth £949m. Of this Britain's own waters contribute 4.3 million tonnes worth £577m at last year's quayside prices.

Since the United Kingdom has so far been offered only 25 per cent of the total EEC catch (worth £237m), other EEC fishermen are being given a free gift of £340m worth of fish a year.

Mr Jonathan Watson-Hall, vice-president of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and a member of the emergency committee, says the industry needs two things if it is to survive—financial assistance from the Government and, in the longer term, more fishing grounds for freezer trawlers to catch the kind of fish required.

Ronald Kershaw

مكازم الأصيل











## MARKET REPORTS

## Grain sales help to dispel the gloom

The United States ban on grain sales to the Soviet Union and the American dockers' embargo on loading Soviet vessels even of corn sold under the five-year deal, continued to dominate the affairs of the dry cargo market last week. The gloom caused by these problems was, however, relieved to some extent by news of sizable grain sales to other countries which brought an air of optimism about the future and hopes of some recovery in rate levels.

Charterers were still making endeavours to keep rates down until the overall picture becomes clearer. However, announcements and rumours of the new grain sales made the going hard for them.

As to the question mark over the dockers, this remains an area of uncertainty. Efforts were being made to persuade them to load over three million tonnes of grain which Russia bought under the five-year deal, but this was to little avail.

## Freight report

Dockers on the Pacific coast were reportedly working normally. Some 60 vessels of third flags are due in American ports to load grain in the next few weeks. Several Russian and third flag vessels are already waiting and at least one ship has been diverted to Argentina, a country not supporting the United States ban. There were also indications that some other ships were being switched to alternative trades, but there were no further reports of Russia trying to hand back tonnage already chartered.

On the grain buying front, rumours abounded that China had purchased a very substantial amount, suggested to be some 1.1 million tonnes. It was turned out to be 2 million tonnes, as confirmed mid-week by the United States Secretary of Agriculture. Of this total about 500,000 tonnes is due to come from the Pacific coast.

Some time after the Secretary's confirmation, new rumours circulated that up to 8 million tonnes had been sold to China. Additionally, Mexico was reported to have bought 4.5 million tonnes and Taiwan 1.2 million tonnes.

Whatever the real position in regard to these sales, talk about them boosted the market morale as most of these deals involved early shipment. As far as the transatlantic grain picture last week rates stabilized at around \$14.50 for large tonnage from the Gulf to the continent.

China was active taking tonnage particularly from the United States Pacific coast at an average rate of \$31. It also showed interest in Gulf and River Pacific movements. During the week, bearing in mind India's bad harvest, a question mark arose over this country's future grain needs.

In contrast the tanker market suffered a sluggish week, with poor rates and low volumes of inquiry and fixing. The Mediterranean, which saw an active period earlier this month, had to contend with softening rate levels and an increasing volume of available tonnage.

David Robinson

## More share prices

Commercial & Industrial  
Aleson Electric Ltd  
Investment Trusts  
Scottish Mortgage and Trust Ltd

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crdn	17%
C. Hoare & Co.	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Royal Bank	17%
Royal Bank	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £25,000 15.5% over

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## The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Price	Chg	Gross	Yld	P/E
4,220	Airsprung Group	73	-1	6.7	9.2	4.3
1,000	Armstrong & Rhodes	40	+2	3.8	9.5	2.6
6,874	Bardon Hill	225	+3	13.8	6.1	6.6
6,420	Deborah Ord	99	-	5.0	5.4	10.2
700	Deborah 17% CULS	350	-3	17.5	5.0	5.7
3,449	Frank Horsell	92	-	7.9	8.0	8.4
13,602	Frederick Parker	108	-2	12.8	15.7	3.5
2,226	George Blair	105	-3	5.2	8.7	3.5
1,500	James Group	60	+1	7.2	6.2	10.2
16,010	Todd Burroughs	210	-	31.3	12.5	8.0
2,550	Robert Jenkins	223	+1	14.3	6.4	5.8
3,431	Torday Limited	23	+3	0.8	3.7	4.4
4,915	Twinkl Ord	76	-	12.0	16.0	11.9
2,075	Twinkl 12% ULS	56	-	2.6	4.6	11.9
7,313	Unilock Holdings	81	-	4.4	5.4	5.4
10,233	Walter Alexander	185	+1	11.5	6.2	7.2
4,317	W. S. Yeates	185	+1	11.5	6.2	7.2

\* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

## Wall Street

New York, Jan 18.—The stock market ended mixed after a day of narrow moves. Declining issues outnumbered the advances by about 630 to about 585.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.38 to 857.15. It had been off about three at midday.

Volume came to 47,150,000 shares compared with yesterday's total of 54,170,000. That ended the string of 50 million-plus share days, but the week's total came to about 274,460,000 shares, topping last week's 272,013,050 volume of last week.

Gold sets another peak

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